

THE MEDIUM

25TH ANNIVERSARY
MEDIUM II - THE MEDIUM

VOLUME 25 ISSUE 12

THE VOICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO AT MISSISSAUGA

NOVEMBER 23, 1998

School plans takeover of athletics

Students feel
University
moving too fast

BY DUNCAN KOERBER

In a recently released report, an athletic department review committee commissioned by Principal McNutt proposes that the University take over the financial, legal, and management affairs of the student owned and operated Erindale College Athletics and Recreation Association. The eight person review committee, composed of students and administrators, analyzed the Student Society over a five-month period starting last May.

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Principal McNutt has quickly accepted all of the committee's recommendations, which include a change in the governance structure and the suspension of the troublesome men's ball hockey league.



Santarossa

"I think [the committee's report] is a ploy to weaken the students' say in athletics," says Mark

Santarossa, current president of ECARA. The process is moving on despite the concerns of Santarossa, and other members of ECARA, that "things are being done closed-door and they're just being pushed through without our consent."

Following the report will be a number of committees to deal with certain aspects of the report, but administration has not guaranteed that these changes will be voted upon by ECARA council.

Santarossa feels that they are trying to find a loophole so that they do not need ECARA's voting approval to take over the athletics operations.

Jason Nicols, ECARA's Special Projects and Promotions Representative, worries about the speed at which administrators are working to implement this report. "They say they're supposed to change the model of governance by December 31. Those are some pretty hard things to change. Does that mean they're going to railroad it through? Does that mean nobody's opinion counts?"

Santarossa agrees. "This report took five months to prepare and

"I think [the committee's report] is a ploy to weaken the students' say in athletics," says Mark Santarossa, current president of ECARA.



Nicols

now they want us to change an entire constitution within one month. That's not going to happen. It's going to take time."

Principal McNutt is concerned about not moving fast enough—and leaving the recommendations in limbo. "My view is that it's not too fast," says Principal McNutt. "If we handle it right, we will have time to look at all the issues."

Former Athletics Director, Peter Baxter, now Athletics Department head for Laurier University, says that the "initial reaction [among students] is fear, a loss of control. My feeling is that history has shown that Erindale's administration hasn't done things unless it has consensus from the students."

Dean of Student Affairs, Les McCormick, who was a review committee member, says that the new governance, and the process in creating it, will involve student input.

He says, "the report puts together a suggested governing structure, which has a large majority of students. Ditto with the committees that come out of that. [Under the new governance] students have to see the full budget, and approve of it. [They also would be responsible for] promoting the programming."

DAR continued on page 3



UTM administration plans to sack ECARA over the next two weeks. Hopefully, administration will be penalized for unnecessary roughness and interference.

ECSU draws zero

Annual meeting
proceeds despite
violations

BY MARK BUDGELL

ECSU threw their constitution out the window and held their annual general meeting last Tuesday, but the audience was nonexistent. Low attendance has always been a problem for ECSU. The Council went ahead and discussed tuition roll-backs, the future of Radio Erindale, and other issues.

ECSU's constitution states that a week prior to any meeting a notice including "a statement of the agenda to be followed" must be posted in *The Medium*. The same constitution also addresses student attendance, or quorum at these meetings. According to point 9, ECSU's meetings require at least 30 people to be "present in person." Neither of the criterions was met at Tuesday's meeting. ECSU's president and advertising director acknowledged these violations yet allowed the meeting to proceed as scheduled.

ECSU staff were unaware of their constitution's guidelines for advertising the meeting, and were under the mistaken impression that

25 student signatures were needed for quorum to be met. Working under this belief, ECSU staff 'recruited' students to sign the attendance list for a lengthy period before beginning the meeting. As a result, the meeting began 45 minutes behind schedule with an attendance list of 27 student signatures and numbers. Only individuals attending in some official capacity were present when the meeting actually began.

The chair of the meeting, Jamie Huynh, commented during the 'recruitment' period that "the only time they didn't have to recruit students was when they had Mr. Sub cater the meeting." Even then, she adds, "they didn't stay for the meeting." Special Projects Administrator, Preena Chauhan, commented that "students haven't been a part of ECSU in the past." Lack of attendance at Tuesday's meeting validated her point.

Pedro Tavares, VP of Finance for ECSU, defended Giordano's decision to continue the meeting by commenting that students were not a necessity if *The Medium* were present. According to Tavares, zero student attendance is "okay, as long as *The Medium* is here."

Chauhan hopes that a seminar

ECSU continued on page 2

Stressed Out?



November means headaches for students. Don't we know it. For full story, see page 4.

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ICP triumphs
Sports
Page 16



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Quote of the Week: "There's not going to be ball hockey at all in January." —Mary Anne Pilskalnietis, Athletic Director.

ECSU discusses CFRE, tuition decreases

Continued from front

she recently attended on mobilizing volunteers will assist her in bringing students to ECSU's functions. She hopes to "use information from the seminar to increase student participation in ECSU." Whether or not her efforts pay off will be seen when ECSU's second general meeting commences sometime in March or April.

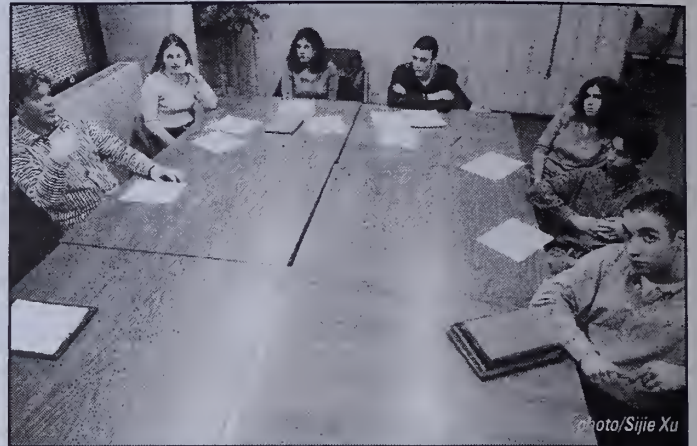
Highlights from the meeting

After being prompted, Giordano addressed suggestions that some ECSU positions be cut to save the union money. He pointed out that, for the moment, none are being considered for termination and any such moves will be left for future consideration. Schirripa, responding to the suggestion, insisted that "we all [ECSU staff] have more than enough to do."

Giordano discussed his hopes for freezing tuition and reducing the minimum first payment for students. Although he recognizes that freezing tuition may be an unrealistic venture, he feels that he can impact the amount required for first payment. He points out that the first payment currently requires that students pay two thirds of their tuition up-front. This, according to Giordano, is too great a financial burden for students despite OSAP deferral options. He reports that he is going to begin "asking questions" and have this issue addressed.

The College Affairs Commissioner, Jason Botelho, outlined a three-step process meant to restructure Radio Erindale. The three-step process includes such initiatives as reinvesting on campus, establishing stronger contacts with students, and establishing "social and economic stability to allow Radio Erindale to enter the new millennium."

According to Giordano, discussion of obtaining an FM license for the station is on hold until ECSU gets Radio Erindale's "house in



ECSU council (left to right): Mike Giordano, Laurie Schirripa, Preena Chauhan, Jason Botelho, Rita Boulos, Vikas Kalra, Pedro Tavares (Rossana Bisceglia, not pictured).

order." Meanwhile, they acknowledge that bills are being paid to broadcast the radio in Manitoba and Etobicoke. In the words of Botelho, these signals can only be picked up if "you have an ancient television with radio output."

October's successful Spirit Week was also examined. According to Advertising Director, Laurie

Schirripa, the event was "a big accomplishment because cooperation across campus organizations occurred" and the event ran smoothly. Schirripa feels that this event is important because, besides increasing student enthusiasm on campus, it provides another opportunity after frosh week for students to get together and have a good time.

Next week, ECSU and UTM's clubs will host an anti-racism event. Beginning on November 24, ethnically diverse clubs will give presentations in the Meeting Place and there will be a theatre night. Prizes will also be given to the clubs to distribute to those who attend the event. Clubs Co-ordinator, Vikas Kalra, hopes that his event will work to end segregation on campus and to unite clubs.

New campus restaurants were also discussed at the meeting. Giordano pointed out that for the first time ever, a wide range of competing food sources are available on campus for students. He noted that this will become more evident when the renovations to the Market Place in Spigel Hall are completed.

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Holiday Fair 1998



The 7th annual Holiday Fair, hosted by ECSU in the Meeting Place, raised over \$1500 for the Child Care Centre and AccessAbility Resource Centre.

Residence gets \$100,000 fund

BY ROBERT PRICE

After fighting for almost two years, UTM Residence's Finance Committee finally won Principal McNutt's approval of a \$100,000 endowment for the Residence scholarship/bursary fund. The fund, which is the first of its kind in Canada, will pay out an annual amount that will benefit returning residence students. In the new year, the committee will work out the details of how the annual dividends will be spent.

"I think it is really good; it's an awesome programme," said Carol-Anne

Ryan, UTM Residence Mayor and member of the Finance Committee. "The idea of awarding returning seniors with involvement is really important and very useful. It is a good reward for people who are active," she said, reaffirming the committee's reason for petitioning for the fund.

From the outset, the Finance Committee argued that, in light of the increasing financial difficulties university students face, a bursary/scholarship should be provided from the residence surplus to help residence students. To date, the residence surplus is nearing \$700,000 and is

projected to reach into the millions once mortgages of the various phases of residence are paid off. Students argued that the huge surplus, which was created through student fees, should be given back to students in some way, otherwise residence fees should be dropped.

McNutt agreed to the committee's suggestion, but declined their request for an annual contribution of \$10,000 to be taken from the massive surplus to enhance the endowment. In a letter to the committee dated November 18, 1998, McNutt said, "I am now prepared to approve the request. With respect to adding \$10,000 per year in subsequent years, I defer on that, as I cannot commit future funds without knowing the fiscal budgetary situation for the year in question. Finally, I approve the transfer with the clear understanding that this is a one-off, without prejudice allocation."

The Finance Committee will continue to seek approval for the supplementary funds and will begin to work out the details of how dividends will be spent.

Mike Lavelle, UTM's Director of Residence, has supported the endowment since its conception and is happy with McNutt's decision. "This should show us all that you should never give up when you believe in something. We have achieved our goal of \$100,000," he said.

Correction. In last week's edition of *The Medium*, the article 'ECSU's curtain cure-all rethought' incorrectly identified Ziyaad Vahed as the president of UTM's Muslim Student Association. Zia Hasan is the current president. We regret this error and any problems it may have caused.



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DAR review suggests athletic changes

Continued from front

Principal McNutt says that "the people on ECARA can make presentations to the committees," in the weeks ahead. Santarossa will be included on the implementation committee, but he thinks his influence will be limited by the committee's structure. "Unfortunately, all of these committees no longer require ECARA because they're all mandated by the principal. What are the odds of getting anything we want?"

12 of 17 students are currently allowed on the ECARA governing council, 10 of which have specific titles and job descriptions.

The proposed governing model includes six elected students (three male, three female), two appointed students (one by ECSU, one by PTS@UTM), one teaching staff nominated by the principal, one administrative staff nominated by the principal, one alumnus nominated by the Alumni Association, one D.A.R. staff member, one instructional staff member, and one member from AGSAE (graduate student association).

Santarossa wonders if the UTM frosh programme or the athletic banquet will be run next year because of the limited resources and time of six elected members of council. "This whole governance reduces the student control of athletics, and by taking away any sort of council hierarchical structure, there's not the same sort of unity anymore," he says.

"It does put [decision-making] into fewer hands," says new athletics director, Mary Ann Pilskalnietis, "but I think it puts it into hands that are responsible. There's enough accountability in the process that students can rest assured that their concerns won't be disregarded. I can't guarantee what would happen in this council, because it doesn't exist. But I know that this model works elsewhere."

Department of Athletics changeover

In the report, the review committee cites the fact that at other schools, each athletic department is controlled by the university. At Erindale, the athletics director works under the student association umbrella, although in practice the director has operated as a university employee.

The committee also says that the department takeover is needed to protect students from legal action in the case of sporting accidents. McCormick says "it's not fair to students to put them in that kind of situation. In essence, it puts the department of athletics and recreation into a student association. Right now it is bizarre, in terms of the fact that the university considers the director of the DAR staff a university employee in financial and legal liability for the

facilities and anything that happens within them. The constitution seems to indicate otherwise." Pilskalnietis describes the student involvement under the new council as an advisory one. "It gives the students the role of being able to advise, express, and to contribute to the decision making of policy and budget and all of those things, without requiring them to bear the unbelievable responsibility of legal liability and for financial responsibility. Currently, they are responsible for life and death."

The legal liability stems from the fact that ECARA is not incorporated, leaving its representatives personally liable for lawsuits. Nicols believes that becoming a non-profit corporation would solve that problem, but that "[administration] just isn't willing to look at it now." If incorporated, the society could purchase liability insurance, and would be able to reduce their tax burden, a burden the committee found in its study of the department.

Reasons for change

"Was it not working here? Is that why we're changing it?" asks Nicols. McCormick says yes. "There have been a lot of complaints about the governance, from students, staff, faculty, the principal, and the director. We took a look at it and agreed that the constitution is a very grey document. It doesn't do a lot for anybody." But Santarossa says he has never heard many complaints, "and I never heard from [McCormick] that there were complaints in the past."



McCormick

"We weren't getting many complaints from students," says Nicols, "We were getting complaints from administration. If there's a student complaint it's always brought to council and is addressed as quickly as possible."

ECARA members have consistently stated that they are not against the whole document and its recommendations. Most council members welcome the proposals for new facilities and a change in programming direction.

As well, last spring, Santarossa and ECARA council member, Chris Murphy, looked at reducing and redefining ECARA's constitution.

The Athletic Review Committee recognized this desire for change, stating in their report that "Mark Santarossa...told us that changes are necessary but that the end result should be a partnership between students and staff." "[The report] says I agree with change," says Santarossa, "which is true, but it

looks like I'm agreeing with the new governance, which I don't. We were going to change ECARA and solve its problems, and then the DAR review committee began. We waited for the DAR report to come through, but we didn't expect this. This isn't a little change, it's a huge change. We had an alternative."

Nicols says "the council could be modified easily—cut some of dead weight. It should always be evolving, moving in a positive direction." But Pilskalnietis thinks these are only "band-



Pilskalnietis

aid" solutions. "I believe that it's the responsibility of the university to embrace physical activities as part of the educational mission. As long as it's in the hands of students then the university doesn't do that. It's not a matter of whether we could put a band-aid here or a band-aid there."

Principal McNutt doesn't believe that the proposed changes are radical. "I don't know if I would characterize it as a massive change. The part where there's legal liability should come under my control, because I am ultimately responsible as Principal of the College. I have to take control of these issues because I will be—if things get really bad—the one who has to assume responsibility."

Some of ECARA's power has already been subverted this year, says Santarossa. "Even though we've got 10 council members, we've already seen a decrease in our power, even though that's not allowed by constitution. It's been done unilaterally—not by students."

Pilskalnietis calls this new governance "the standard out in the greater university world of education and physical activity."

Who will have the final say?

Neither side really understands yet whether the changeover will happen the way the review committee suggests it should. Next week, administrators from downtown will come to Erindale for a meeting to discuss the next step.

"They'll try to find a roundabout way, find a loophole to get what they want," says Santarossa, about the University's plans. "According to the current structure of ECARA, it must go through the council and a referendum, but what they're saying to us is, 'the principal mandated it.' So it doesn't make a difference what we say. I'm thinking, 'what are we here for in the first place?' In all honesty they can probably do whatever they want."

Nicols describes it this way: "They've got this philosophy that you can't make everybody happy—but as long as they're happy, everything's okay." Jim Delaney from the Office of Student Affairs, says "we are looking at what steps need to be taken in order to make this happen." Delaney and other university members will meet with Erindale administrators soon.

"We need to look first at what ECARA's constitutional require-

ments are with respect to these sorts of things. We also need to look at the fees protocol and how ancillary fees are approved for UTM, and then, if there's some sort of transfer, what particular approvals need to take place. This is actually very complex. We've never, to my knowledge, tried to do this before," says Delaney. "My assumption is that ECARA is going to have to agree to give up that fee before the school could establish a new fee for athletics. On top of it, Q.S.S. would have to approve it as

an ancillary fee." He adds, "but there are so many—for me any-ways—unanswered questions."

Since the University is moving quickly on this issue, the next few months will be packed with meetings and there could possibly be a student referendum on some part of this issue in late January or early February.

The school wants the system ready in the spring so that the six students can be elected to the new council during the regular March/April election period.

ECARA finances

By DUNCAN KOERBER

In the DAR review report, the review committee reveals the "frustrations over the inability to raise the fee even a modest amount without a full referendum" as one reason that the university should control the fee. Under university control, most fee increases, other than large capital projects like the proposed new athletics facilities, would not need student approval in a referendum. Most fee increases would only need approval by internal committees such as the Quality Service for Students.

"The current constitution says you cannot raise the fee for athletics even a quarter unless you go to full referendum, but every division in the university is allowed a cost-of-living automatic increase and bigger increases simply by going to internal student committees," says McCormick.

ECARA, as a student society, could have had a cost-of-living fee increase on its student fee in the past, but never held such a referendum. A few years ago, ECSU passed an increased cost-of-living fee, allowing ECSU to raise its student fee by cost-of-living each

year without any more student referendum. However, since the cost of living index has stabilized in recent years, the possible increases have been extremely small.

ECARA's last referendum involved the proposal for a new gym in 1996. Students voted down the proposed \$80.75 increase. Pilskalnietis says that students, perhaps in cases like the 1996 referendum vote, don't vote with the future in mind. "This college is not as well-resourced because students find it hard to take into account long term planning. They find it hard to say that they would dedicate money to something that they're not going to enjoy," she says.

The review committee report is also concerned with the "imbalance" between student fee revenue and community membership revenue in the financial statements. Past athletic staff boasted about "outside revenue" as a way to minimize student fees. Now, there is a big risk, "if the Argos leave—if the economy turns. It's not very good at all. They've maxed out the facilities for summer programmes too," McCormick.



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Stress an important factor at university

Mid-to late November is a stressful time for students. With essays and research reports due, tests and exams lurking in December, and part-time jobs eating up the afternoons, finding time to study is difficult. As the sky gets greyer and greyer while winter prepares its first snowfall, stressed students sometimes find it hard to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

NEWS FEATURE

TRACY MONIZ

Poor concentration, anxiety, pressure, panic, and sickness are all signs of too much stress. The mere sight of the word "stress" seems like sufficient to trigger it. But stress is not all bad. According to Dick O'Brien, a human relations consultant who hosted last Wednesday's seminar on stress management at Colman Place (part of the "Life Series" seminars hosted by UTM Residence), a healthy amount of stress is necessary for proper human functioning. "If channeled correctly, it leads us to be active and focused. It's the bad stress that can be immobilizing," he said.

Cleo Boyd, Director of the Academic Skills Centre, echoed O'Brien's sentiment, but added that, "If it gets beyond a certain point, it's not productive anymore. You can't teach a stressed student because you just can't get their attention," said Boyd.

"Unhealthy stress levels are escalating all over the whole of the University of Toronto," said Boyd. In fact, the number of anxiety-related cases have doubled "almost beyond the resources of the College," said Tom Klubi, one of the two Skills Strategists at the Academic Skills Centre. The demand for these resources is fast-growing; in some cases, students go straight from an exam to health ser-

vices regarding stress-related symptoms. Naturally, there are varying degrees in which stress manifests itself physically, but nonetheless, it does suppress the immune system.

"We need to address the situation early, and not wait until we reach a panic attack situation," cautions Klubi. The prevalence of panic attack sufferers has risen from two to four per cent of the population. Sufferers can be as young as ten, but onset occurs more often in the late teens or early twenties, with many being introduced to panic attacks in University.

Dealing with stress

Students need to look at things more rationally and realistically. For example, psychologist Dr. Scott Wallace proposes in *Better Health Magazine* that instead of taking the 'I failed my test, so the whole course is ruined' mind set, try the approach of 'I failed my test, but I know that I can be optimistic and cope.' It may sound like a 'Mickey Mouse' solution, but consider the stressful alternative: "Students are not forgiving of their performance, and often react traditionally by attributing their failure to their [lack of] intelligence," said Klubi. According to O'Brien, I.Q. does not guarantee success. "Success is a combination of E.Q., the Emotional Quotient, referring to common sense and intuition, and the A.Q., the Adversity Quotient, which looks at standing tall through life's difficult moments and learning from them."

Unhealthy beliefs foster self-doubt and worry. O'Brien says that, realistically, 95 per cent of the worries conjured up by the

brain will never materialize. Unfortunately, the brain doesn't know this, so it treats these unrealistic beliefs as if they were real situations, piling on the stress. O'Brien says that humans have an infinite capacity to drive themselves crazy for no real reason and that for the remaining 5 per cent of stress about things that do come true, "worrying doesn't help because it doesn't do anything to fix the problem," he says.

Stay active

To help ease stress, students need to stop procrastinating—a factor heavily associated with stress. The key is to remain active whether or not you feel like it. Set deadlines and improve your time management. A common problem with university students is that many are "passive learners who expect learning to come to them the way it did in high school," says Boyd. "This isn't high school, and students need to be more actively engaged in their learning," she continues.

With stress as a tall barrier to learning, students need to speak out on the issues that are causing them stress. "There are limits to Erindale's resources, so we need ECSU, PTS, Athletics, and all student groups to speak out, so that we can further develop ways to help students deal with stress," proposes Boyd.

Part of prioritizing includes relaxation, according to Shari Blackstien, M.Sc., a Personal Counsellor at Erindale, "Find ways that relax you—a hot bath, going for with a friend, socializing, exercising—whatever works for you," she continues. Erindale offers a variety of athletic outlets in which to vent some stress, including Group Fitness classes, Yoga, and recreational programs in a wide range of sports.

Adding to students' stress is the growing trend of a poor diet combined with a lack of sleep. "Students can't stay alert long enough during the day to do their readings. Stress skyrockets when [sufferers are] sleep-deprived. Concentration goes, memory goes, and things just get worse," says O'Brien.

Finding a balance

A growing phenomenon is students who are "absolutely obsessed perfectionists," says O'Brien in his seminar. Learning to say "no" is a good place to start. "If someone throws you a ball, you don't have to catch it," he suggested. Before students etch their time manage-



Dick O'Brien gives advice to stressed students at *Stress Management*, one of the seminars that comprise UTM Residence's *Life Series*.

ment schedule into stone, they need to balance their lifestyles. They need to remember to make time for other activities that will relieve stress.

Students are dealing with long-term stress from every direction that builds up over the course of the year: social, academic, work-related, family induced, ... and the list goes on. According to Blackstien, things have escalated to a point where many students feel like "hermits, putting in 50 to 60 hours of studying each week sometimes." According to Blackstien, "Stress is always around. Students need to try to figure out what is most important to them—what their highest priorities are—and organize their time around that. We can help them do that."

Part of the problem of having 'too much to do and too little time' is the growing trend of students with part-time jobs. "Over the time that I have been at Erindale, I have seen an increase in the number of students who are working and there is a correlation between part-time work and stress," says Blackstien. The stress level varies with the type of work and number of hours put in each week, but the reality is that having a job is often a necessity for many students who have to deal with increasing tuition fees, and personal financial burdens. "They have to worry about buying books, possibly paying rent, and sometimes helping support their families," she continues. This leaves less time for students to be students, only furthering their "emotional and financial exhaustion which contributes to stress," adds Boyd, who is surprised at the growing number of students with full-time jobs who hold down three courses. "They're in their early twenties and they're exhausted." According to fourth-year student Abid Chaudry, "Students who don't have a job because their parents are wealthy enough benefit more from a University education. After work, you're too tired and don't want to open a book. What

happens in class is only a basic introduction that we have to refine on our own, and that takes time." Time is something that most students seem to lack.

Students have to make a conscious effort to tone down the "Be Perfect - Try Hard - Hurry Up - Be Strong - Please Others" mentality of many stress-sufferers described by Dorothy Madgett, a Toronto physiotherapist with over 40 years of experience dealing with stress and relaxation.

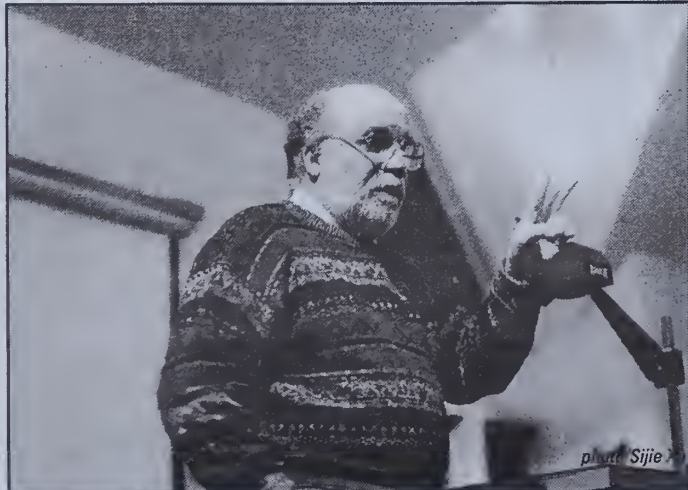
Manage stress

If students want to alleviate and prevent 'bad' stress, they need to learn to take responsibility for managing stress.

"Ninety-five per cent of the stress in your life is self-induced," states O'Brien. "Things go wrong. Everyone has bad days. It's how much power and authority you give those bad moments in your life. Don't sweat the small stuff," he advises.

According to Boyd, "Students have to learn that taking responsibility doesn't necessarily mean more work, but working smarter." The Academic Skills Centre can be used as a source of help for improving study strategies and memory techniques. "Many students lack the foundational skill needed to succeed in a discipline. Both knowledge and skill are involved. Students need to perfect their skills as a way of helping them to attain knowledge," she continues. Therefore, a common route taken by students—adding on extra hours of studying—doesn't seem to be working.

Essentially, we can't control everything that happens to us in life, but we can control our reactions. Make your number one priority, and take O'Brien's words of wisdom to heart: "Before you can take good care of anyone or anything else, you must first take good care of yourself."



"If channeled correctly, it leads us to be active and focused. It's the bad stress that can be immobilizing," said Dick O'Brien.

Okay, Erindale:

We sent our wish list early to Santa Claus, but he'll probably toss it in the trash cuz we're too old for that stuff.



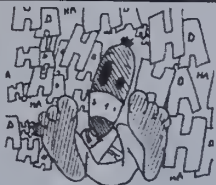
But maybe you can help.

We asked Santa for new writers, new photographers, and a few artists on the side (if they're cute). If you fit the description, why not save Santa the trouble and volunteer for *The Medium* right now? Naughty or nice, we accept everyone.

Residence life



Two residence students get ready for bed. They don't look stressed, do they?

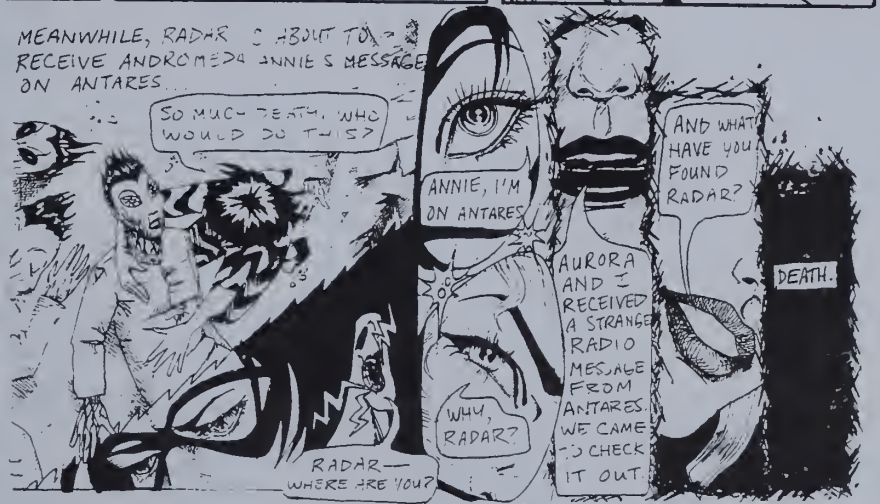
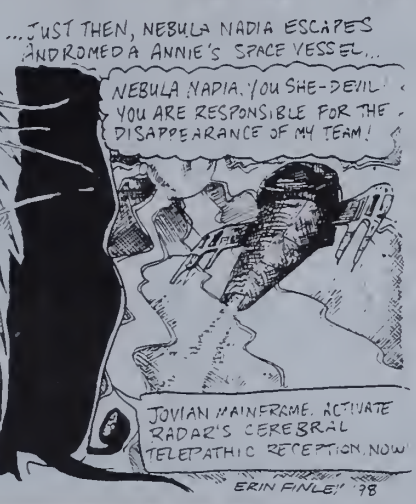
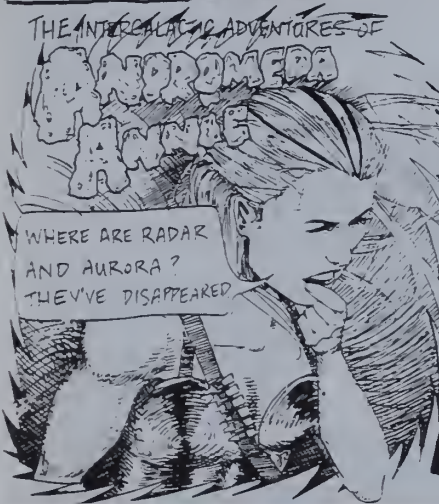


RECESS



Generation Why?

BY: S. ARVOLD
csilver@earthlink.net



VEGANS ALWAYS TOUT THEIR "HOLIER THAN THOU" ANIMAL PROTECTION ISSUES - IF ONLY THEY KNEW THAT TOFU WAS REALLY FROM AN ENDANGERED AFRICAN COUSIN OF THE ELEPHANT.



Are you sure the dress is 100% necessary?

LEONARDO DA VINCI'S LESSER KNOWN PORTRAIT, THE MONA FRED.

SKWEVED VIEWS: SKWEVED VIEWS

Pin IT on Mike!

Erindale has always had its share of problems, and frequently no one really knows WHO to blame. Now, The Recess has made it possible to shift all of your blame as is required for any given situation. Since the buck usually stops with ECSU, it seemed only fair to target Mike Giordano. All you need to do is cut along the dotted line and hang up the image, cut out the blame squares, write in your problem, and pin away. If your blame falls outside the Giordano, you must take responsibility for yourself (or try again...we won't accuse you of cheating).



BLAME
NO CONDOMS IN MEN'S WASHROOM!

BLAME
NO STRIPPERS AT BLIND DUCK!

BLAME

BLAME

BLAME

BLAME

BLAME

BLAME

EDITORIAL

THE MEDIUM

VOLUME 25 ISSUE 12 CIRCULATION 5000 NOVEMBER 23, 1998

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Report is a mess

The Review of the Department of Athletics & Recreation is full of weak arguments and is entirely devoid of alternatives for students. The committee was blind to the possibility that students could hold on to their right to control their interests, and still repair ECARA's constitution. The university suddenly wants control. Who was asleep in administration for over 25 years, not realizing that the university wasn't running the athletic programme?!

At the very least, all of the proposals should go past the ECARA council for a vote (not just for their "input"), and the larger proposals, like governance and finances, should go past all students in a referendum. But at this point, nobody knows what will happen, and surely the University has its doctoral minds working to find the single clause somewhere in the documents of this college that will allow them to continue unimpeded with their takeover of the student society.

Let's look more closely at the issues. Grab your copy of the report and follow along:

We begin with the TABLE OF CONTENTS on page 1.

FACILITIES: The Need for Expansion.

Of course we have small facilities—this isn't a revelation. All that talk about "commitment" to new facilities means very little. The commitment was made back during the student centre student fee increase referendum last year. As well, former Athletic Director Peter Baxter was committed to new facilities for years! Is the Principal's commitment the most important part of this document? No. As well, the "current issues, exterior enhancements and operational issues" are all very nice, but they don't need much debate, and don't deserve this sort of attention.

PROGRAMMING—This is another non-issue that takes up too much space on the page. Who wouldn't agree that we should have programmes that appeal to a wider range of students? According to our interviews, few people disagree. Nevertheless, the report's focus is on programming, which is being changed already.

Men's ball hockey is included here. We'll leave the bulk of the ball hockey discussion for the locker room (and the Sports section), but we'll say one thing in this space about the suspension. Why take so long? The school wants to rush the governance changes, yet it needs a year to discuss changes to an intramural ball hockey league. We could sit down with the interested parties and come up with a solution in two weeks. The "break in culture" isn't going to happen because the league is gone for a year. The break in culture will happen immediately with stricter rules, as evidenced by the changes made after the league suspension last spring.

Moving on, there are two issues: interfaculty experience and varsity experience. Great issues, but once again, not big ones in terms of what they mean to the 6500 students at Enrdale.

Later in the report, we finally reach the most important issue: governance. They hide this issue down at the bottom, as if it's insignificant, when it's really the fundamental change in this report. Let's look at the topic in

detail: GOVERNANCE, page 23: They try to lend credibility to their case by citing the "external reviewers" who, obviously, agree with all of their suggestions. But these "external reviewers" are administrators, from other universities, making recommendations for our administrators. We call that a biased review. What are they gonna say? "Students' rights must be paramount in all affairs!" Nope.

Then they say that this whole mess must happen because it's "mandated by the University." Mandated by who, you ask? Did students create this mandate, or did the Governing Council, which is made up of administrators, create it? We'll take door number two.

In the next paragraph they discuss legal liability. They want to take the burden of legal liability off the students' shoulders. Poor students—all these years they were personally liable to be sued. Thankfully, nobody in the history of this college sued ECARA. They'd have gone bankrupt—that is, unless they had simply become incorporated as a non-profit institution, like *The Medium* or ECSU. They could have taken out insurance against lawsuits too. Those options are still possible...maybe. Of course, under these options, the University would still be liable for lawsuits for a department they don't control. But that's life. We have no control over tuition fees; let the school have no control over something for once. See how it feels. No matter, under either governance the school is liable for lawsuits, so it doesn't really make a difference in practice.

The third paragraph of page 23 also expresses an intense fear of referendums. "Oh no, students have a voice! Silence it now before they do something crazy, like express their concerns for rising fees!" When the report states that "another problem is that increases in student fees, however small, may only be approved by referendum," we reply, "Yes, but is that necessarily a bad thing? Shouldn't students have a say about their own fees?" We don't have a say in most cases, and now the University wants to take away one of our last means of some control. They say that students will still have a majority on the council. But remember, under the new structure, the decisions for 6500 students will be made by nine. Nine students who will probably be so tight with administrators on this council that you'll see them lunching together in the Faculty Lounge. Such small tight student-admin councils don't breed dissent because administrators are in the room.

The worst part about page 23 is the use of name-dropping. They stick comments by Mark Santarossa into the section about change. Sure, he agreed to change ECARA, but not to this extent! But in this case, Mark's name lends credibility to their argument.

On page 24, they cry again about "the frustrations over the inability to raise the fee even a modest amount." Oh, what a headache these referendums are! But the doctor could have stopped that pain with a cost-of-living referendum 10 to 15 years ago. If they had held one referendum asking students to accept a cost-of-living increase, the "frustrations" might have disappeared. Students accepted similar motions from ECSU, and *The Medium* years

Dare to read more?

Report cont'd on page 7



Letter to the Editor

Only select few should be blamed for ball hockey violence

To the editor,

Re: Cancellation of ball hockey

The cancellation of the ball hockey league for 1999 is an unjustified, outrageous response to the so-called "escalating" violence and problems that are hindering the game.

Last year, there were problems in ball hockey with a handful of players and one team in particular. In response, the league was suspended for a week.

Upon the reinstatement of ball hockey last year, the violence calmed down. There was only one major incident: John Milic making death threats, for which he was subsequently barred for life.

A couple of minor incidents resulted in harsh suspensions, so the problems in ball hockey seemed to have disappeared, with fans and players looking ahead to ball hockey in 1999. Unfortunately, the report by the DAR committee, that recommended the cancellation of ball

hockey and was approved by Principal McNutt, is simply a shot in the ribs to fans and players alike.

One of the main questions to be raised is why the students weren't informed at all? We (the student body) should have had an opportunity to provide feedback and voice our concerns.

But back to the real question, why exactly did the league have to be cancelled?

Why do the players and fans, who had absolutely nothing to do with the violence, have to pay the price for the actions of a few players? Punish the offenders only, don't place sanctions on me.

Cancelling the league for 1999 simply gives a black eye to the ball hockey population of UTM, by sending the message that our "top" people, the ones making the decisions for us, do not know what they're doing.

Zain Fancy

What do you think about the one-year suspension of the men's ball hockey league?



"I don't speak english."

Raj Ghuman



"It's an extremely stupid thing to do. We (ball hockey players and fans) all have to suffer because of the actions of a few players. Is that fair?"

Zain Fancy

TALKING HEADS



"No hockey? Soccer all year round."

Sam Gill



"It surprises me that we would abuse [ball hockey privilege] in such a negative fashion."

Trevor Smith

Photos by Sijie Xu

Are we cantankerous enough? Send a letter. Express yourself in under 500 words.

Letters Policy



Letters to the editor will be edited for spelling, grammar, style, and coherence. Letters will not exceed 500 words in print. Letters that incite hatred, violence or letters that are racist, homophobic, sexist, or libelous, will not

be published. Letters reflect opinions of the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Editor-in-chief, other editors and staff, or *The Medium's* Board of Directors. In other words, just because we print it doesn't necessarily mean we agree with it. Submission does not guarantee publication. Submission of a letter to *The Medium* presumes the writer has read, and agrees with, this Policy. Please submit letters on disk.

OPINION

Report reduces students' control

Continued from page 6

ago, and no longer do these non-profit corporations have to stage a referendum for that purpose. Of course, the cost-of-living index has been so low that the advantage is nil in the past four years; however the committee wouldn't let that fact stop a good argument now, would they?

Page 24, second paragraph: "Dr. Keyes, one of the external reviewers, has written that 'financial management and accountability is ultimately the University's.' We won't mention again the practice of using administrators to propose solutions to administrators, but the sentence is really funny in a sad sort of way when one turns it around: The money is, ultimately, the students.' Right?

They also write that students must "be key players in...fee determination." Again, to the uninformed, this argument is unbeatable, until you realize how few students will be key players. What about all those students who don't want to use athletics facilities—they just want to learn? Have they no say? I know it's too late to change that policy—they're stuck with the \$62 fee for good—but at least in the current situation, everyone—jock or not—has a say in fee increases. If students don't want added fees, as they said in 1996, then that's their right. Don't disregard them as foolishness or having a lack of foresight. Just forget about it and stop pursuing new fees like Lucien Bouchard pursues separation. If a fee is truly needed, tell the students why. If students understand the increase is desperately needed, they will surely accept it.

Let's move on to the last thing: FINANCIAL ISSUES.

The committee puts a great spin on the whole issue of the "risky" nature of outside athletic revenue. We remember, years ago, Peter Baxter said that this situation was a good one, because it reduced the students' athletics fee. Now the committee tells us it's a very bad thing.

On a more serious note—don't get us wrong—this report has some nuggets of gold in places, but the pervasive view point ignores easier solutions. The arguments are very one-sided, as if alternative viewpoints were never considered. It's vague, although that's expected in a report that is supposed to touch on a wide range of issues.

But what we find most worrisome is the speed at which the school wants these recommendations implemented. Why rush? It took the Principal a year to make a decision on the residence scholarship even though the money was in the bank. It's going to take a year or two to implement even just a few of the Task Force on Year One recommendations. Yet, in this situation, where the opposition seems weak, a report is proposed, written, and intended to be implemented in under 8 months. That must be the speed record for university bureaucratic action.

We hope that students realize the importance of the issue and stick up for control over a major financial part of their fees. We never had the chance to stop tuition increases. Parking costs increase so much each year. Now here we have control of athletics and they want to take it away.

At the very least, the school must allow ECARA to vote on whether or not to accept the recommendations of this report. If students are really concerned about the liability, if students really want the school to take ECARA over, ask them. Don't fear the students. But don't screw them either.

Superbugs challenge health care system

Look out for the superbugs! Recently, reports out of Ontario hospitals have detailed escalating incidences of the emergence of so-called superbugs.

These bacteria are infamous for their ability to resist, and in rare cases, display immunity to antibiotics. Citizens blame the emergence of superbugs on the government's cuts to health care—hospital closings and amalgamations across the province. The cutbacks have undoubtedly contributed to the current dilemma, but by no means fully account for the problem.

The development of superbugs can best be explained by natural selection. In any population of any species, say bacteria, no two members are genetically identical. Random mutations in the gene pool of the species ensure this fact. In a population of bacteria, simply by chance, some will resist

antibiotics more than others. The slightly more resistant strain, then, will have a greater probability for survival and in turn will contribute a greater number of offspring to the subsequent generation. The second generation will then be more resistant to antibiotics than the first. Within the second generation, variations of this resistance will arise, some more vigorously resistant than others. And the process of natural selection will repeat itself. Ultimately, a generation will arise that displays a high degree of resistance or even outright immunity. This generation of bacteria are the superbugs.

Larger and fewer hospitals, as the Harris government is mandating, provide ideal conditions for the spread of superbugs. Hospitals are institutions where surgery, intrusive procedures and intravenous feeding are widespread practices, providing

ideal conditions for superbug infections. Since many superbugs are known to spread simply via a handshake, large hospitals make isolation and containment virtually

HEALTH MATTERS



BY ZEESHAN WASEEM

impossible. The many people that hospitals accommodate daily are perfect vectors for spreading these resistant bacteria within the confines of the hospital and beyond.

The Harris government is also advocating a shift from acute

care to long-term care facilities.

Traditionally, long-term care facilities are known for providing fewer intrusive procedures; however there is now greater pressure on them to become more hospital-like. The only problem is that they are short of the funds and competent staff to ensure that proper guidelines are followed when intrusive procedures are undertaken. Consequently, patient care may suffer and conditions may arise for the infestation and spread of superbugs.

Another key issue is the prescription of antibiotics. The more contact between infectious bacteria and antibiotics, the greater the probability that a resistant strain will develop. Currently, Canadians take too many antibiotics. For this reason, Health Canada has issued a warning that antibiotic prescriptions be reduced by 25 per cent by the year 2000.

Anti-bacterial consumer products, such as deodorants, anti-perspirants, sprays and soaps, work to eradicate bacteria as do antibiotics. Excess usage of these products may allow for the emergence of a resistant strain.

Resistant bacteria are infectious and deadly. They are creeping up in Ontario hospitals in numbers never before seen or even fathomed. The provincial Conservatives, with their policies for hospitals and long-term care, must bear the brunt of the blame. The over-prescription of antibiotics and excessive usage of anti-bacterial consumer products, however, contribute to this current predicament as well. Rethinking the Conservatives' strategies toward health care in this province and abiding by Health Canada's recommendation to drastically reduce antibiotic prescriptions are sensible ways to avert the lethal consequences of a superbug outbreak.

IT'S GETTING COLDER:

ECSU is collecting donations of:
 clean, warm clothing;
 blankets/sleeping bags; new,
 unwrapped toys;
 non-perishable food items
**Also: old towel & blankets;
 pet food & toys**

**Receive a FREE raffle ticket when you
 bring in a non-perishable food item for a
 chance to WIN a Pladium Gift Certificate!**

**Please drop any items at
 the ECSU offices, 110 North**

ECSU is looking for
4 DEDICATED
 students to sit on the
ECSU Advisory Committee
 to help ECSU address
 student concerns.

If interested,
 please drop by
 the ECSU office,
 and talk to Rossana,
 Preena, or Laurie

ECSU
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The exploding brain and other urban legends

by Natasha Wong

NEWs FLASH: Nevernever Land. "In a shocking move last Thursday, law students suddenly abandon lecture hall 1178, citing as a reason, the 'fifteen minute rule.' Students cannot reveal the source of this obscure rule and are still looking for the tardy professor." Hey, don't believe me? Well, you really ought to talk to my sister's boyfriend's dentist's niece's former sixth grade teacher. She told him and he told me, so it's gotta be true. He swears by it. And since we're speaking of academic tales—did you know that if your housemate dies, you're automatically granted a 4.0 GPA? Or how about the one about Robert's Library sinking into the ground a quarter of an inch each year because the engineers forgot to account for the weight of the books when they designed it? Another popular story speaks of a student who hands in an exam booklet a few minutes past the deadline. Upon

hearing that his exam will not be accepted, he asks the prof, "Do you know who I am?" "No." "Great!" and the student promptly shoves his booklet into the middle of the stack and makes his exit.

Well if you have heard any of these tales, and even ventured to believe them, you've just fallen prey to the tantalizing wiles of yet another urban legend. Apocryphal stories such as these have graced pages and pages of faxes, scores of e-mails, and have made the rounds by word of mouth. Their primary unifying characteristic is that they rarely speak the truth. Sure, my sister's boyfriend's dentist's niece's former sixth-grade teacher may not be a red-faced liar, but the fact remains that with every telling of a story, details are changed, phrases are flipped and ultimately, a very different tale emerges. That's what makes them so unique in this age. In a society where

mass media and cultural institutions virtually control the lines of communication, urban legends can rarely be relegated to a single source. They are cautionary tales that have been taken to the edge of reason, but are different from myths in that they are set in the recent past or in the present. They can't be classified as fairy tales either, as they are completely believable. This is the story of the urban legend.

According to the folks at the Urban Legends Archive (alt.folklore.urban), these strangely charming tales "contain elements of humour or horror (the horror often 'punishes' someone who flouts society's conventions); appears mysteriously and spreads spontaneously in varying forms; makes good storytelling; [and] does NOT have to be false, although most are. Urban legends often have a basis in fact, but it's their life after-the-fact (particularly in reference to the first and third points) that

gives them particular interest." This Internet newsgroup strives to set the truth aside from the fiction. Their regular contributors provide "vectors" (retellings of common legends) and try to determine the origin of each story.

Social scientists have dubbed these creations as "memes" or "virus ideas," with a zinging quality that overrides our powers of reason and discernment and compels us to pass them on. The fact that most of them are preposterous rarely crosses our minds; what fascinates us is that they have the potential to happen, and that makes them real. In the case of the kidney theft story, we learn that a meme need not be true to have lasting popularity. With the tale of the exploding brain, we laugh as we pass it on. Urban legends are so far-fetched that to be memorable, they must evoke an emotional response. But, enough with the chit-chat...let's get to a few of these popular stories.

The kidney snatchers

While it is easy to believe that urban legends are harmless forms of entertainment, their effects have shown national, and even international ramifications. New Orleans was close to suffering a backlash in its tourism industry last year so great that the city's police department was prompted to put up an official web page to counteract its effects. In January, when the city was gearing up for its annual Mardi Gras celebrations, a rumour was circulating via fax and e-mail that warned prospective visitors away from the festivities. It was believed that a well-known crime ring in New Orleans was drugging travelers and removing internal organs for sale on the black market.

Thousands of variations of this tale are being spread. In one, a businessman goes to Europe and elicits the services of a pretty French prostitute, only to

wake up in the morning in a tub of ice and blood with a stabbing pain in his lower back. The note tied to his toe reads, "don't try to get up...you have just undergone major surgery." Subsequent examination in the emergency room reveals that he has been the unsuspecting victim of an invasive procedure that has left him without a kidney or a liver. It's a frightening story that is made real by playing on our own worst fears.

This urban legend's effects have mirrored those of a rampant virus; they have been so far reaching that people's lives have been jeopardized. In March and April of 1994, the consequences of such a tale culminated in an ugly ending. Rumors had spread in Guatemala that United States citizens were exploiting their country as a virtual transplant farm, kidnapping children and stealing their organs. Several Americans and

Europeans were attacked by furious crowds that believed the stories. One American woman, Jane Weinstock, was severely beaten and remains seriously impaired to this day. It is incredible that all this could happen and there not be a grain of truth in the tale.

The United Network for Organ Sharing, UNOS, has confirmed that there is not a single documented case of organ theft, and there is no evidence that such a black market exists. In fact, on a purely scientific level, organ trafficking is nothing but a lofty idea concocted by a prankster who just wanted to see people squirm. The UNOS says that outside a medical environment, this activity would be close to impossible. Organ removal, transporting, and transplantation procedures are so elaborate that it would not be feasible to get together all the necessary personnel to make the process worthwhile.

Guinness Book of Records: Craig Shergold

Just last week I received an e-mail that reads: "Craig Shergold is seven years old and suffering from terminal cancer. It is his ambition to be included in the Guinness Book of Records for the largest number of business cards ever collected by one person. Craig would be grateful if you could send one of your business cards to the address below and also send the enclosed pages, including one of your own, to another ten companies. Obviously, speed is of the essence..."

Since 1989, Craig has been immortalized in untold numbers of e-mails and faxes, going through so many channels that one cannot be entirely sure what distinguishes fact from fiction. Some researchers have concluded

that the whole situation was a huge scam to establish a business contact directory, while others advocate its veracity. The majority believe that Craig did exist, but attribute the quest to his doctor, Richard Hayward. After seeing how many get-well cards the boy received from his family and friends, he commented that Craig should go for breaking the Guinness record. Alison Ingram, a family friend, was present at the time and found it easy to start up the campaign with her extensive business contacts. The nurses at the hospital roused local support and within a short time, Craig had received 3000 cards. The curious thing is that at first, Craig didn't suspect that something was up, even though he didn't

know 3000 people! Luckily for his advocates, Craig agreed to the mission and on November 16, 1989, the tally surpassed the old record of 1000 265—held by Mario Molby of Leicester—and history was made. Breaking the record didn't stop the influx of cards, and by 1992, Craig had received 33 million cards, was in no danger of being outcompeted by another Record hopeful, and had 90% of his brain tumor successfully removed. He was given a clean bill of health in 1995, and yet, his message still lives on. The Children's Wish Foundation receives about 300 000 cards each week despite their efforts to discourage people from sending them.

The case of the exploding brain

It was a cheery Sunday afternoon and the supermarket was packed with people picking up their week's worth of groceries. The parking lot wasn't much better and the line up to get out was horrendous. Suddenly, a woman in a wood-paneled station wagon hit the brakes. Frustrated drivers honked their horns in vain, but she just wouldn't budge. One driver just couldn't take it anymore, got out of his car, and challenged the stubborn woman. Again, she refused to move, and pleaded with him to call the police. The police arrived 45 minutes later and the woman was still in the same position, with her hands clutched to the back of her head. She claimed that she had been shot in the head and was holding it together so her brains wouldn't fall out.

Subsequent examination revealed no bullet hole in the rear windshield. The perpetrator? An exploding jar...what she thought was her brains was just a huge glob of mayo.

YOUR STORIES

Fiery Camellia

By Grace Subrata

F fiery Camellia: Every night she'll kindle up a new kind of fire.

Jesse's eyes were glued to the television set. He marveled as he watched the man in the commercial open an alien-looking foil package. As the actor tore away at the scraps of silver, a naked woman began to appear before Jesse's virgin eyes. She wasn't a real woman, however. No, Fiery Camellia was a woman carved out of the quality firewood. She had all the features of a real woman: sensuous curves, full hips, round breasts, big, round eyes, the suggestion of a nose, and thick, sensuous lips.

The man in the commercial whizzed through the four easy steps to a fiery woman:
Step 1: Take Fiery Camellia out of foil wrapping.
Step 2: Place Fiery Camellia in fireplace.
Step 3: Light a fire using a match or extended lighter.
Step 4: Watch Fiery Camellia as she dances in the fire.

As Jessie watched Fiery Camellia dance on the television set, he envied the man in the commercial. How he would kill to have a woman dance before him, to touch, to hold, and to free him from his thirty years of virginity.

"Now if you're a man looking for the perfect mate, Fiery Camellia's the girl for you! She can be yours for the low, low price of only four monthly installments of \$29.95! Act now and we'll throw in *Fiery Camellia: The Perfect Mate*, a complete and comprehensive guide to getting the most of your Fiery Camellia."

Drip, drip, drip. Jesse sucked the remaining saliva back into his mouth.

"Fiery Camellia is going fast, so act now! Call 1-800-HOT-FIRE and get your Fiery Camellia today!"

Jesse rushed to the phone and dialed the toll-free number. This felt better than all those phone sex numbers, because Jesse did not have to pay by the minute, and he was about to get this woman into his house.

After six to eight weeks of watching the same commercial over and over, Jesse finally received his Fiery Camellia. Fiery Camellia's price had gone down from four monthly installments of \$29.95, to three monthly installments of \$19.95. And instead of only offering the free book, purchasers now also received a free hands-off lighter stick. Yet Jesse did not regret ordering Fiery Camellia earlier. It would be worth the money to get Fiery Camellia in his home as soon as possible, before he died of loneliness.

As Jesse examined the foil packaging that protected Fiery Camellia from the world, he found the complete owner's manual. He tossed it aside and ripped at the silver foil that separated Jesse from his woman.



He held the fire log in his arms. She was just as he had seen her in the commercials, only now he could feel her features warm in his arms.

Jesse gazed at Fiery Camellia's face. She was the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. Of course, he had never seen a woman from such a small distance as he now saw Fiery Camellia. Throughout his entire life, Jesse had repelled any member of the opposite sex. He had been the biggest geek in school, and was always too busy doing math or physics to even think about getting close to a girl. He never really learned how to treat women.

He threw Fiery Camellia into the fireplace, lit a match, and threw it in with her.

Suddenly, Fiery Camellia came alive. *Warm Fire.* He watched as Fiery Camellia swayed gently within the hearth. *Comfort.* Jesse fell asleep on the couch. As soon as Fiery Camellia saw that her master was asleep, she came out of the fireplace to lie beside him. She whispered in his ear: *You complete me.*

The following evening Jesse

lit Fiery Camellia again. Tonight her body was flailing violently. *Hot fire.* Jesse was overwhelmed with Fiery Camellia's heavy perfume. *Kerosene Passion.*

Fiery Camellia jumped out of the fireplace, and onto Jesse's trembling body. *I want you,* she cried. Jesse felt his body burning. He could feel his penis swell as Fiery Camellia stroked him wildly. Thirty years of masturbation had never felt this good. He lay on the carpet, staring up at Fiery Camellia, whose body emanated a heat above him. *Passive lust.*

Bright fire. Fiery Camellia was knowledge personified. Tonight she told Jesse bedtime stories from Milton's *Paradise Lost* and the Bible. Jesse was amazed by Fiery Camellia's wisdom. She knew nothing of the Cartesian way of life or of Newton's Laws of Motion, but she was a woman, and therefore needed no knowledge of such things. All that was necessary was that she would be able to carry on a decent conversation with any of the guys he brought over to his house, so that they would envy him for having chosen such a smart wife. Soon the literature began to bore Jesse, and he fell fast asleep.

Black Fire. Tonight Camellia's fire was no longer warm, hot, or even bright. No, tonight, she stood still in a black fire. *Internal Combustion.*

"What's happened to you, Fiery Camellia?" Jesse begged for an answer.

I'll kill you with my serpent's poisoned fruit. Let you burn in my hellfire. Let the flesh simmer for a while.

Fiery Camellia felt hungry. She had not eaten in days, and needed food.

She held Jesse in her arms.

This is the body of Christ.

She stared at the man that had given her life, hoping that her fire would kindle up something within him.

Jessie did not dance. Unlike Fiery Camellia, who lived off fire, Jesse was melting, burning, turning slowly into ashes. He screamed like a woman.

It's funny, Fiery Camellia thought, how much Jesse wanted this to work out, how

much Jesse wanted to have her as a lover, a wife, his woman. Yet they were so different, too different. She was an entity of fire, and he, mortal ice.

As Jesse's body turned into ashes, Fiery Camellia noticed that for the first time since she had met him, that Jesse was smiling. How strange men are, Fiery Camellia thought,

that they are never satisfied with life, and the only time that they are happy is when they no longer exist. Fiery Camellia embraced Jesse's frail body until she had totally consumed him. It was the tastiest thing she had ever eaten in her life.

For the first time in her life, Fiery Camellia belched.

Ah, men.

One last urban legend: The sneaky french bellboy

A typical all-American nuclear family—a mom, a dad, one boy, and one girl—fly to France for a nice family vacation. There, they partake in all the typical touristy things such as the obligatory trip to the Eiffel tower and the visit to the Louvre. Before going out to dinner one night, they drop by the hotel to freshen up and get a change of clothes. When they return, however, it is to find that their room has been broken into.

Strangely enough, nothing in the room has been disturbed except for the spare camera and the family's four toothbrushes, each of which has been carefully set out on the

bed. In the midst of the flurry of apologies by the management, the unusual arrangement is forgotten. The break-in is blamed on the bellboy, who had oh-so-conveniently quit that morning.

Chalking the lack of missing items up to weird luck, the family gets a bigger and better room for free and finish the rest of their vacation.

Back home in the States, they develop their film. The first few are of the family and the night life along Champs Elysees, but the second half are of the bellboy, smiling fiendishly, with all four toothbrushes stuck in his bum.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Joe Black, meet Obi-Wan Kenobi

I had intended to see *Meet Joe Black* on Tuesday. I intended to give it a fair chance, and had every intention of being patient through its much criticized three-hour running time. That was the plan. However, all of this backfired when a trailer for a certain space opera suddenly appeared.

FILM/REVIEW

BY RICHIE MEHTA

On Tuesday, November 17, Lucasfilm Ltd. and Twentieth Century Fox decided to run a test of the new trailer for *Star Wars: Episode I: The Phantom Menace*. This severely impeded what was supposed to be an objective look at *Joe Black*.

The commercial is undoubtedly the most exciting thing to occur in cinema in years. The images shown in this two-minute preview are mesmerizing to say the least. Beginning with the phrase "Every Legend has a Beginning," (or something to that effect—the entire experience was a little hazy) the trailer lets viewers imagine what is in store.

What follows are images of ships speeding through the canyons of Tatooine, and flying through space battles with young Anakin at the helm, lightsaber duels, blaster fights, breathtaking shots of Coruscant, the Imperial City—as convincing as any medieval art history image—and snippets of dialogue, including appearances by Yoda (who has side-burns), R2-D2, C-3PO, and the Emperor. They speak of a prophecy, of the force, and of the Dark Side. It is an indication of what to expect, and, needless to say, the film looks like it belongs to the *Star Wars* family. I re-entered the *Star Wars* universe, and *Joe Black* didn't exist.

Nevertheless, the commercial ended quickly (to those of you who were lucky enough to catch it on

Ewan McGregor steals the show in *Meet Joe Black*.

photo/Lucasfilm Ltd.

Entertainment Tonight, congratulations), and the feature presentation began.

It must be said that the first few minutes were a blur. However, after a quick clean-up and recovery, *Joe Black* had my full attention.

The film is long, to say the least.

The story is a fantastical tale of the Grim Reaper taking on human form (in the body of Brad Pitt, no less) in order to experience the kind of life that he has been taking away from so many for so long. He offers a

few more days of life to a dying communications mogul named Bill Parish (played wonderfully by Anthony Hopkins), in exchange for showing him around. In the process, he meets and falls for Bill's daughter Susan, played by Claire Forlani.

The film really had potential, with a great score by Thomas Newman, good humour in light of the situation, and judging by the sets, one can see where the \$85 million budget went.

However the film is an hour too long. And that dead weight drags *Meet Joe Black* downward. Director Martin Breast (*Scent of a Woman*) should be commended for what he attempted to do. Both *Scent* and *Black* stress the importance of honesty, integrity, and kindness in an individual, and therefore, they demand appreciation. However, as a piece of entertainment, *Meet Joe Black* falls flat, and at times, is boring. There are so many endless gazes, empty glances, and super-long pauses that don't need to be there (amateur film buffs could have skillfully edited them from the final cut). It's as if the message is force-fed to us, and then re-stuffed over and over again.

But that doesn't mean all was lost, for after the feature, they re-played the *Star Wars* trailer, as if to apologize for *Joe Black*.

Apology accepted.

Pearl Jam up on two legs

BY ADAM GILES

On Tuesday, one of rock 'n' roll's most influential bands in recent years will release their first live album. *Pearl Jam's* sixth album is called "Live on Two Legs," and it features many of the band's greatest hits from over the years. The 16 tracks of *Pearl Jam* greatness include the first single released to radio, "Elderly Woman Behind the Counter in a Small Town," which is also the longest song title in music history. In lieu of this great day in music history, it seems somewhat appropriate to recall the enjoyment provided by *Pearl Jam's* previous five albums.

The band, lead by the mighty vocal cords of Eddie Vedder, took their name from Vedder's grandmother, Pearl, and her finest recipe, a fearsome jam that victims claim had hallucinogenic properties. With the release of their debut super mega-hit album, *Ten*, in 1991, *Pearl Jam* suddenly established itself as one of the decade's most important alternative rock bands. Seemingly from out of nowhere, the band won the hearts of

After touring with Alice In Chains and issuing a collaborative effort with Soundgarden, which they called "Temple of The Dog," *Pearl Jam* released their second album, *Vs*, in 1993. The momentum created by *Ten* was maintained in *Vs*, as hits like "Daughter," "Rearviewmirror," and "Dissident" reinforced the band's raw talent. *Pearl Jam* wasted no time following their second album; in 1994, they delivered *Vitalogy*, and kept their place amongst the leaders in the music industry. Although the third release had a softer feel, evident in songs like "Nothingman" and "Better Man," louder songs like "Not for You" reminded fans of the power behind *Pearl Jam's* punch.

In 1996, the band released *No Code*, which was by no means as good an album as the other three. It paled in comparison to the lofty standard that *Pearl Jam* had set for themselves. The only noteworthy songs on this CD were "Hail, Hail" and "Who You Are." These songs would no doubt elevate an average band to minor stardom, but for *Pearl Jam*, they were very tiny successes.

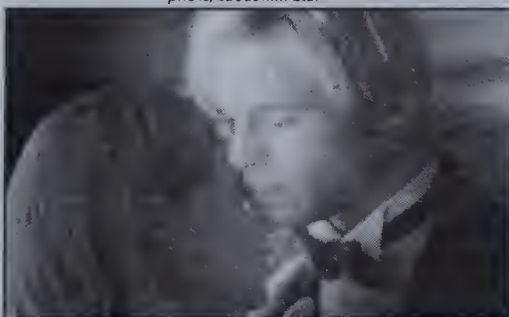
The fifth release, *Yield*, hit the



Eddie Vedder (far left) jams with his crew.

thousands. When *Pearl Jam* released "Even Flow," "Alive," and "Jeremy," the band's staying power became apparent. *Pearl Jam's* versatility was also showcased on the song "Black," through a slow, melodic tune that contradicts the pace of the majority of *Pearl Jam's* songs. Regardless, they nailed that one. It takes real talent to be able to produce songs that are both powerful and passive.

shelves in early 1998 and was a definite step up from the mediocre *No Code*. Songs like "In Hiding," "Wish List," and "Given To Fly" renewed the strength of the *Pearl Jam* freight train. They were once again back on top, where they belong, and ready to release their second CD of the year and their first live album. There is no stopping these guys.

Claire Forlani and Brad Pitt share a moment in the real *Meet Joe Black*.

I'm going to live forever

Reach for the stars: The cast of *Fame* practices one of their many ensemble dance numbers.

photo/Mirvish Productions

The phenomenon of *Fame* has covered the silver screen, television, and the stage. One would be hard-pressed to find anyone who hasn't seen one of these versions of the tale. And if you're one of those unfortunate people, go to see *Fame: The Musical*, now, at the Royal Alexandra Theatre. The Toronto premiere marks the beginning of a North American tour for the wonderful production, which should be seen if only for its dance numbers and energy.

THEATRE/REVIEW

BY RICHIE MEHTA

The story follows a group of high school students and their journey through The High School of the Performing Arts, circa 1984. There's Nick, the clean-cut, serious actor; José, the not-so-serious actor; Carmen, the drug-addicted singer; Lambechops, the amazing drummer with an attitude; Tyrone, the illiterate dancer with a bigger attitude;

and Schlomo, the gifted violinist. These characters, as well as a handful of others, each go through their adolescence, deal with their talent, and juggle their personal lives, all the while making time for a little song and dance. The music itself is not very memorable, save the theme song. (Although the motion picture won both Academy Awards for music, it's not very likely the musical will be awarded as much.) However, the dancing is without a doubt the finest of any musical in years. The energy of the young cast makes the ensemble pieces awesome. Dancer Dwayne Chattman, who plays Tyrone, leads the cast in perfectly choreographed numbers, which seem to never end (thankfully). Singling out any one player, though, is inappropriate, since everyone is flawless in this masterpiece, (despite shallow, stereotypical representations of the characters).

Even though the characters are stock, they are all likeable. The performances are vibrant, especially Carl Tramon's portrayal of

Schlomo, the son of a world-class composer. Not only does Tramon capture the angst and the pressure of the character, but he can play the violin. That's the beauty of the musical: hard work and success are part of the lives of not only these characters, but of the actors themselves. The performance is inspiring because the passion and motivation of these young artists is shared by the audience. More than anything, we want them to make it.

The show boasts such a vast array of talent that one is dumbfounded. There are ballet, rap, violin and drum, and modern dance numbers throughout. All of them are as good, if not better than, other, more single-minded works, making the three hours go by almost too quickly.

During the finale, one feels the inspiration and the optimism of the characters, as if their energy has rubbed off on the audience. But alas, the musical did come to an end, and with it, the delight of watching one of the finest shows Toronto has ever seen.

World music comes to Toronto

Many Toronto-based bands are producing top-notch independent CDs (surprise!). Operating without the usual constraints of a large record company, these musicians have greater artistic licence to explore traditional

Maza Mezé Unleavened

(M. Hassan, P.O. Box 867, Station F, Toronto, ON, M4Y 2N7)

CD/REVIEWS

BY GIOVANNI SENISI

sounds and rhythms. Typically, producers are encouraged to add drum machines and the like to 'update' a given sound, increasing its crossover potential and encouraging reviewers to label the work "innovative" and "timely." There is no such bullshit here. If you're looking for the real thing and want to skip over the usual, watered-down mediocrity...check out these albums!

Diego Marulanda & Pacandé Por El Sol

(D. Marulanda, P.O. Box 364, Station P, 704 Spadina Ave., Toronto, ON, M5S 2S9)

Por El Sol is the ultimate Latin-American party album. Uniting an ensemble of nine musicians to recreate rhythms from Colombia's Atlantic coast, Pacandé sizzle in a way their computer-generating colleagues could only dream of. The CD exudes the band's raw passion for music, capturing a rare spirit.

In order to keep the listener's interest throughout, Marulanda gives female vocalist Lisa Lindo equal opportunity to strut her stuff, amidst unique rhythms. The inclusion of cumbia, son, chandé, palenquero, and porro make *Por El Sol* somewhat of a living museum for rhythms on the endangered species list.

To help out the non-Spanish speaker, English summaries accompany the liner notes explaining the folk, spiritual, or allegorical significance of each song.

Por El Sol is distributed by Festival Distribution.

A Greek and Arabic music ensemble of 11 instrumentalists and numerous vocalists, Maza Mezé appropriately translates to "an assortment of appetizers." Representing sounds and subjects from areas such as Egypt, Syria, and Asia Minor, *Unleavened* is a rich sampling that delves deep into cross cultural connections. The result is a remarkably cohesive sound that brings the listener in as if the players were gathered together in your living room, casually responding to each other's musical voice...almost like a conversation.

The sound is seductive and mystic, spiritually transporting listeners to undiscovered parts of the soul. "Ala Baladil Mahbub" a popular song about yearning to be reunited with one's homeland, is particularly gut-wrenching and inspired. In it, the vocal stylings of Maryem Hassan communicate emotion so intensely that it is almost unsettling. Elsewhere, the vocals are simply breathtaking.

Unleavened's conclusion takes the form of an Egyptian folk tale about a woman "who can strike a man dead with a glance from her black eyes as she rides by on a camel." The steadily building pulse produced by the drummers and the wailing banshee-like cries of the seductress climax and abruptly come to an end. The amazing sense of timing illustrated by this choice of arrangement and content leaves the listener disheveled and bewildered. The end of the CD and thus Maza Meze's sonic exploration is poignantly related to the end of life itself.

Close your eyes, sit back, and enjoy.

Unleavened can be obtained by calling 1-877-4-MARYEM.

- Giovanni Senisi

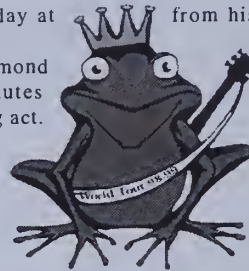
Diamond in the rough

"I love Neil Diamond." This statement still sells out concert stickers and T-shirts all over North America. His star power remains, and it was proven last Monday at Copps Coliseum in Hamilton.

For this sold-out performance, Diamond played for two hours and fifteen minutes straight, with no intermission or opening act. His voice is as clear as ever and sounds as good as it does on any greatest hits collection. He covered many songs from his twenty-five year career, including hits from *The Jazz Singer*, and *Jonathan Seagull*. Although he missed one of this reviewer's personal favourites, *Kentucky Woman*, I for-

CONCERT/REVIEW

BY CAROL-ANN RYAN



I♥Neil Diamond

gave him when he played "Sweet Caroline (Carol-Ann)" twice in a row to increase audience participation. As an added bonus, Neil threw in a set of his new album, which is a collection of his favourite songs from movies.

The concert was played "in the round." Diamond performed on a centre stage that provided equal viewing for everyone in the stadium. There was also a fantastic light show, and a rotating band area.

This concert was unique because unlike so many performances, it catered to all age groups. Neil Diamond takes advantage of his diverse audience and runs with it. He appeals to everyone, and he can still rock the house.

The evil that men do

You're preparing for the holiday movie season. Family films are coming at an increasing rate. Disney is out in full force, and Santa Clause and the spirit of Christmas envelops everyone.

FILM/REVIEW

BY RICHIE MEHTA

Suddenly you stumble into a theatre and realize you're about to watch *Very Bad Things*, the new film from writer-director Peter Berg (who's acted in *Copland* and *The Great White Hype*). Little do you know that you are about to see the most vile, repulsive, and evil film, ever.

The tragic tale centres around five guys, and their bachelor party in Vegas.

no morals, people are getting knocked off one after another. Even Favreau's fiancé, (Cameron Diaz), who appears to be the one moral connection to the audience, is fucked up.

The concept of the film is not necessarily a new one, but grounding all of the characters in a suburban reality makes the film truly twisted. Unlike *Pulp Fiction*, where the characters are underworld hit-men who kill for a living—thus their shooting of Marvin in the face seems hilarious—these characters are white collar family men. Yet to them, murdering is okay. This adds to the filmmaker's intended effect, since he wants people to cringe in their seats from disgust. What's surprising is that people will find themselves laughing, when the dust settles.



Resistance is futile: Cameron Diaz is very very bad in her new film.

They are played by Christian Slater, Jon Favreau, Jeremy Piven, Leland Orser, and Daniel Stern. After they arrive in Vegas, gamble, do drugs, and get sloshed, they hire a prostitute/stripper. One guy takes her into the bathroom, and they get it on (this is the light part of the film). However, after a tragic accident, she dies. They decide to bury her in the desert. But the plan goes awry, and before one can realize that this film has

This film is not for the faint of heart. Indeed, the film caters to a very specific audience. And although people may appreciate the originality and the stylistic properties of the film, they will probably be turned off by the violence, and more specifically, the context in which it is presented.

Very Bad Things' one redeeming quality is that the characters get what they deserve. In the biblical tradition, those

Professor's inspiration reaches all

On November 17, the Fine Art Students Association held its first Professor's talk. The speaker at this event was Professor Jill Caskey of the Fine Art History Programme. A woman with a great knowledge of art history, her forte is clearly medieval art.

ARTT/ATAK

BY AGNES CEGLARZ

The subjects of this talk were cross- and multi-culturalism in the Middle Ages. Caskey's enthusiasm for this topic was reflected in the students' smiles and laughter. The event was well received by many of the Art History students who have never taken a class with Professor Caskey.

Professor Caskey showed the audience slides of images from Italy, which had been taken during her three-year study there. She spoke about her own studies on Italian art, and how she became interested in it during her post-graduate work. She spoke of her exhilarating personal experiences, providing some motivational art historical information from which all the students benefited. The talk was not only entertaining, but educational. She is a truly inspirational woman. As Professor Caskey put it, a summation of the event would be "[my] scholarly work in a nutshell," and in this writer's opinion, time well spent.

who wrong others are dealt with in an interesting way, and suffer to no end. However, that is not enough to prepare one for the brutality and the shock of the situation. The human body is subjected to the most heinous acts of torture in this film, and the audience gets to see every gut-wrenching second of it. It's like *Something About Mary*, replacing the sex jokes with violence. But it is often hilarious, if you can get past that whole moral thing, and that's where the difficulty lies.

Looking at the audience reaction to the film, it's safe to say that the film will spark controversy. During the screening, after the prostitute is suddenly killed, a booming laugh was heard at the back of the theatre. A young woman yelled out "I don't think it's supposed to be funny!" to which a young man in front of her replied, "then you're in the wrong fuckin' theatre!" How wise that man was.

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Boy George is back! Read on...

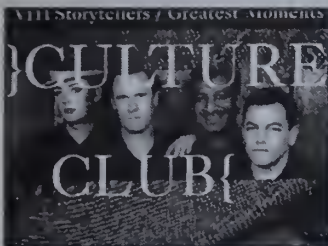
CD/REVIEWS

Culture Club

VH1 Storytellers/Greatest Moments
(Virgin/EMI)

VH1, a U.S. music/fashion channel, has begun releasing two-disc live/best-of sets for some of music's better known faces. While superstars such as Ringo Starr have been given their chance to shine, the unexpected (but pleasantly surprising) Culture Club two-disc set is one of the real gems in this series.

Not only does it feature their first new single (working together) since the mid-eighties (1998's "I Just Wanna Be Loved"), it features a modern performance of many of their hit classics. Such live recordings are much harder to find than one might think.



Casual fans will be thrilled that all the hits are here, from "Karma Chameleon," to "Do You Really Want To Hurt Me?" to the Boy George solo-single, "The Crying Game." While it must be noted that the oft-overlooked "War Song" is absent, everything else you might want is here. For the die-hard fan, there is the new track, as well as some of the lesser-known Culture Club hits such as "Miss Me Blind" and "Time (Clock Of The Heart)."

While it would be presumptuous to compare Boy George to some of the other mega-stars who will probably see the light of day in this series, it is nonetheless refreshing to see this collection surface. After a few lackluster Best Of... compilations, it's a relief to see a comprehensive, respectful and band-endorsed collection which not only includes some of the more obscure (and equally good) songs from the band, but which also allows the band to take the stage together for the first time in years. Their reunion solidifies the return of pop to the mainstream, and proves that much of the "fluff" from the Eighties is far more than is commonly assumed. There is substance in retro pop, and George O'Dowd has set out to prove it.

- Scott Arnold

Liz Phair

Whitechocolatespaceegg
(Capitol/EMI/Matador)

While some people assumed motherhood would soften Phair's lyrics and tone (in comparison to her wickedly catchy debut, *Whip Smart*), all those fears are laid to rest after a single listen to *Whitechocolatespaceegg*. Phair retains her hooks, her bounce and her incredible voice.

The album coasts up and down through various moods, but the impression created by the first single, "Polyester Bride" is a pretty fair portrayal of the album. Her style is hard to pin down, which is probably part of why she's so intriguing.

Phair's lyrics, which are thankfully included, provide an interesting (and clear) contrast from song to song, swaying from quirky ("I can see the Russian Army rolling

Placebo
Without You I'm Nothing
(Virgin)

To put an "alternative" spin on your day, *Without You I'm Nothing* is definitely the CD to look for. It features Placebo, an all-male trio, which brings to the music scene a barrage of contrasting musical sounds, from a pulsing energy that sets the scene for some serious stress relief via the classic art of headbanging, to a tone that is softer and more serene.



"You Don't Care About Us" and "Allergic (To Thoughts of Mother Earth)" are among the collection of fast-paced, heavier beats whose harsher sound can, at times, drown the lyrics. The CD also makes room for a selection of softer-flowing musical escapes featuring relaxing guitar interludes reflecting the creative energies of Stefan Olsdal and Steve Hewitt, which envelop the voice of Brian Molko in perfect synchrony. His voice, an echoing whisper, seems to emerge directly from the instrument itself. "My Sweet Prince" and "Summer's Gone" turn the persistent pounding to an almost melancholic, emotive mood.

Echoed in the closing track, "Burger Queen," is the line, "Things aren't what they seem" - a verse which captures the essence of the CD. Its cover depicts a pair of solemn-looking women who fail to offer any indication of the type of music a listener should expect to hear, or any hint about the musicians behind Placebo—a name which, in its literal definition, is also not what it seems to be. In keeping with the heavy mood of the cover, the lyrics present a world filled with separation, betrayal and loss—contrary to the traditional image of a comforting "Mother Earth."

So, even if alternative is not your thing—whether it's adrenaline-pumping exhilaration that you seek, a solitary moment to relax, or simply an opportunity to wallow in your own self-pity and anger at the world—this CD will definitely leave its mark on you!

- Tracy Moniz



through my head," from "Headache") to downright poignant ("And when I find it, I know I'll make sense of me," from "Perfect World"). Phair is one of those artists who is hard to get a handle on, both lyrically and musically. As *Whitechocolatespaceegg* proves, even after childbirth, Phair hasn't lost her style, her edge, or her characteristic flair.

- Scott Arnold

UNKLE
Psyence Fiction
(Mo Wax!/Polygram)

Imagine, if you will, two of the greatest creative minds in any field; imagine that they have connections with some of the greatest talents in various related fields; imagine that they managed to collaborate on one project. Now, open your eyes to UNKLE. The brainchild of Mo Wax! Records head James Lavelle and cut and paste music constructionist DJ Shadow, UNKLE is a collective that creates music in a variety of genres all built upon Shadow's eclectic beats and sounds.

Since neither Lavelle nor Shadow sing, they had to go out and find vocalists. Unwilling to settle for just anybody, the pair collected some of the greatest voices in the industry and then wrote songs that would fit their vocal styles. For the first single, "Rabbit In Your Headlights," UNKLE called on Radiohead vocalist Thom Yorke to help create a melancholic ode that borders on Radiohead's other music, while still maintaining a constructionist flair (as would be found on any DJ Shadow project).

Other notable help comes from Mike D (rapper for the Beastie Boys) on "The Knock (Drums Of Death part 2)," with a song that sounds like it was pulled from the Beasties' latest album (*Hello Nasty*) and put through the Mo Wax! machine to produce an incredible mesh of drums, bass and rhymes. "Lonely Soul" also pulls in some noteworthy help in the form of Verve frontman, Richard Ashcroft. With a song that sounds like a slightly flatter (while still impressive) Verve track, "Lonely Soul" holds the same longing that characterizes Ashcroft's voice.

While every track on this album could be noted for its incredible blend of trip-hop and brit-pop, it would quickly get redundant as each track is compared in brilliance to the last. Easily one of the best albums of the year, everyone should own a copy of UNKLE.

- Scott Arnold

Kurupt
Kurruption
(Antra/A&M)

After a four-year hiatus from the scene, Kurupt is back up in your ear with his solo debut, *Kurruption*. On this double album, the Philly-born, one-time Los Angeles resident attempts to exhibit the full spectrum of hip-hop by dedicating one CD to each coast.



The West Coast CD starts with "This One's for U," a typical left-coast track with a formulaic R&B hook. The rest of the CD seems like filler material until you are hit with three dope cuts in a row. The DJ Battle Cat, who produced "Play My Cards" ingeniously combines a circus band sound, a Slick Rick snippet, synthesizers, and good old-fashioned turntablism to cook up a head-nodding delight. Battle Cat also contributes the lead single: the silky smooth, strictly for the clubs track: "We Can Freak It." "Fresh" is probably one of Kurupt's best lyrical performances on the CD. Fellow DPG, Daz lays down a dark, moody track and Kurupt blesses it nicely. The last song, "Ask Yourself" reunites the artist with the man who introduced him to the music world via The Chronic, Dr. Dre, over hard snares and a simple bassline.

The East Coast disc is not as tight; however, a few tracks do stand out. Easy Mo Bee provides a signature style backdrop for a collaboration with Buckshot. Venom, the female Wu-Tang affiliates also shine on "It's Time." Super-thug Nonneg also does the cameo thing on a remix. This double album should have been condensed into one, but die-hard DPG fans probably won't be disappointed.

- Chinedu Ukabam

Cake
Prolonging the Magic
(polygram)

Prolonging the Magic, Cake's newest release, has a lot to offer, and is enjoyable, but it is not what most would expect. After listening to the album, one feels unsatisfied and confused because they can't quite pinpoint what is missing. None of the songs are bad, and yet, none of them are great. In the past, with songs like "The Distance," "It's Coming Down," "Daria," and "I will Survive," Cake had staying power with fans. The album suffers because it's not "catchy" enough, which is what people have come to expect from Cake.



However, there are some songs that almost satisfy one's expectations. "Where Would I Be?," "You Turn the Screws," and the first song released, "Never There," stand out, but they also remind listeners of what is missing from the rest of the album. Perhaps the loss of bass player Victor Damiani is an explanation. His replacement, Gabriel Nelson, is an adequate bassist, and has his own exceptional style, but it's just too difficult to single it out on this album. John McCea presents his usually abstract lyrics, and the percussion/trumpet player Vincent di Fiore gives the band a different sound from the rest of today's groups. *Prolonging the Magic* is not bad, but it isn't great. It's an average album that will leave as fast as it came.

- Ryan Turnbull

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SPORTS

Erindale ball hockey league cancelled for 1999

In an ironic twist of fate, it appears as if the Erindale ball hockey league (EBHL) has been suspended for the 1999 season because it didn't suspend enough players in the past.

But is the league really gone? Rumblings in the Meeting Place this past week had many people asking if Erindale ball hockey was truly cancelled for the 1999 season. Much to the dismay of many, this rumour seems to be true. As a result of a department-wide review of the Athletics and Recreation Program at UTM, many recommendations were made that will be analyzed in the future. One of the recommendations of the DAR report was that ball hockey be suspended for one year and in that time, a task force be co-chaired by the director, Mary Ann Pilskalnietis, and the President of ECARA, Mark Santarossa. This task force will determine the changes necessary to prevent the problems in Erindale's ball hockey league that have plagued it

BETWEEN THE LINES

BY ZUHAIR FANCY

over the past few years.

Of the students asked, many felt that the league as a whole is being punished for the problems caused by a few, a valid point indeed. With around 500 players in the league, is it fair to punish them for the misdeeds of a few? Not really, but then when has anything in life ever been fair?

The DAR report states that "episodes of violence and racist taunts escalated to the peak that the Director had to stop league

play." While it is fair to say that the league has become increasingly violent over the past few years, not all of the claims made by the DAR report are correct. There was only one reported episode of a racist taunt to the review board of the EBHL in the past three years and the circumstances surrounding this taunt were so ambiguous that it could not be fairly determined whether the comment was actually referring to race.

Criticizing violence in the league is fair, considering that there have been incidents of fighting and body contact that are contrary to the rules of the EBHL (which stipulate that the league is non-contact). Yet it is only fair to consider that after the league was suspended by former Athletics Director, Peter Baxter, players were required to sign a 'fair-play' contract and consequently there were few problems. The only major incident was player John Milic's attack on a referee. The problem with the Milic incident is that he was suspended from the EBHL for life a few years earlier for abusing an official. Milic appealed his suspension to the ECARA council, who allowed him back into the league against the wishes of the review board. Milic lost his temper in a playoff game and physically assaulted referee Janos Csepregi, and threatened his life. Milic had been penalized for his actions by the governing body of the EBHL, the review board, but appealed his penalty to a different council and—although it never should have happened—was allowed back into the league. Blame for his subsequent attack on Csepregi fell on ball hockey.

In the DAR report, last year's ECARA president, Mike Giordano, is quoted as saying that ball hockey is "out-of-control" and that the rules must be consistently and properly enforced. Giordano is doing an absolute about-face from his position on ball hockey last year. Regarding the 1998 season, Giordano stated that he felt fighting should be allowed as it was unfair to let a player get hit without the ability to defend himself. While Giordano is correct in that it is dangerous to force a player to not defend himself when attacked, to give him the right to raise his fists when provoked completely contradicts the premise of the league being non-contact.

Last January, when Giordano's teammate Rob Bellissimo, former ECARA vice-president administration, was suspended for a vicious cross-check on another player and subsequently sucker punched him, Giordano defended his teammate and fellow ECARA council member by stating that it was "in the heat of the moment" and that "he reacted like any other student would." In the incident, Bellissimo maintained that he was provoked by a high-stick, which was contradictory to the accounts of both referees and the witnesses. "The guy gets stuck in the head and he's supposed to become rational and not do anything? If you got stuck in the head, what are you going to do, just walk away?" Giordano commented, "I don't

"It's such a fundamental part of this campus that by eliminating it, you are eliminating a lot of participation in UTM sports."

-Mark Santarossa



No more ball hockey action this year.

file photo

know how I'd react in that situation. I know I'd be visibly upset. I know I'd want to do something. That's the heat of the moment." For Giordano to tell the DAR committee that ball hockey is out of control is contradictory to his comments only months earlier, as he went on record saying that a player should be allowed to defend himself and incidents like Bellissimo's are "in

the heat of the moment" and thus excusable. When Bellissimo was given a one-year suspension for his actions, Giordano stated that the penalty was too harsh. In the entire incident, Giordano refused to admit that his teammate was in the wrong in his actions, and for him to later tell the committee that ball hockey is "out-of-control" is hypocritical, since he condoned those very actions when it was his teammate. Giordano himself was suspended for fighting in 1995 for four games.

In a letter to the editor last year, current ECSU vice-president of finance, Pedro Tavares, accused the referees of bias in games. He felt that because members of the review board and referees also played in the league, the opportunities for biases were great. Admittedly, referees may bias their calls to help their favourite team, but what other source exists for obtaining referees? To ask a player not to play in the league and just referee would be unfair as you would only be paying him \$7 per game, and still there would be accusations of bias because of the friends he may have playing in the league. The only way to get referees would be to bring in professional certified OBHA referees from the outside. This is hardly a great solution because they would require much more than \$7 a game. Another problem is that by bringing in professional referees, the EBHL is presented as being closer to a professional league than to an intramural, fun league.

The referees in the EBHL have always been an easy target of abuse from players and fans alike. Many of the people criticizing the referees' inability to consistently enforce the rules have never refereed a game themselves, and merely take shots from the sidelines.

The DAR report continues on that the league has "become viciously competitive," aided by the "presence of vociferous spectators" who applaud the violent play. One cannot deny that fans react to a big body-check but they don't come to watch violence—they come to watch their friends play a good game of ball hockey.

The DAR recommends that every part of the league (structure, rules, penalties, fans, referees, etc.) be closely examined to create a new, less violent model. The DAR review indicates that one of the more important objectives is to educate players on the ethics of sportsmanship and recreational competition. The task force has been given one year to come up with a

LBM upsets Reservoir Dogs in NBA

Erindale State versus I-Roq

BY ZUHAIR FANCY

In the opening game for the NBA playoffs, number one ranked Erindale State went up against fourth seed I-Roq for a chance to go to the NBA finals.

I-Roq came into the game with a six man squad that saw the return of point guard, Diego Salgado. Erindale State, on the other hand, had all their big guns at the game, which resulted in a 61-42 win.

The first half went in favour of Erindale State as they outscored I-Roq 36-20. Bryan Foo had a solid half, scoring 14 points and hustling on defence. Patrick Espert was held to nine points as the Erindale State defense keyed in on him.

The second half went the same way, with Erindale State padding their lead. Harold Samuel stepped his game up in the second half to score 10 points.

I-Roq was led in scoring by Patrick Espert, who had 19 points, and was his team's best player all season. Diego Salgado was held to six points in his return, which was key to stopping I-Roq. Erindale State spread the scoring around as Bryan Foo poured in 20 points and supported by Harold Samuel, who had 12 points. Four of the Erindale State starters hit double figures in points as they showcased their offensive versatility with so many available weapons.

Erindale State will play Little Big Men in the finals with game one set for Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. and game two set for Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. Erindale State will be favoured to take the NBA title over LBM, but look for LBM to put up a solid challenge.

Little Big Men versus Reservoir Dogs

Going into this game, the Reservoir Dogs were the favourites, but the Little Big Men, who have played solidly all season, put up a good fight and came away with the upset win 72-68. Many Reservoir Dog players were confident that they would win easily but had to eat their words in the game's aftermath.

The first half went mainly in the Dogs' favour as they took a 35-25 lead at the end



Erindale State won this game to make it to the NBA finals.

photo/Sijie Xu

midnight on this Cinderella team.

EFSA versus Lobsters

In game one of the NCAA finals, the betting line proved to be on the money, as the Lobsters came out on top over EFSA with a 41-35 win. While the game may have been much closer than expected, the Lobsters still prevailed in this matchup.

EFSA got off to a poor start as they were unable to generate a consistent offense, but at the end of the half, they were only down 20-18. Gary Yang led the Lobsters, scoring seven points. EFSA star Mike Fong was held to four points in the first half and was ineffective.

The second half was much like the first: EFSA continued to struggle and could not make a comeback. The Lobsters spread their scoring around and Yang put in nine points to lead his team. Fong, on the other hand, was shut out and with him went all EFSA hopes for another upset win.

Yang ended up being the game's high scorer, with 16 points, while Lobster star point guard, Jack Tseng was held to five points while playing with a nagging leg injury. Boyd Beltran led EFSA with 13 points, but with Fong only able to score four points, the EFSA offense was unconvincing. If reports of Fong having a hand injury are true, then EFSA will not be forcing a game three.

of the half, powered by Adam Long, who scored 10 points. LBM was led by Geoff Richardson, who scored 10 points.

The second half was a different story as LBM stormed back to tie the game and send it into overtime. It was in the second half and overtime that Scott Baker stepped up his play for LBM and scored 17 points to lead his team. Lance Stroud was equally impressive, scoring 15 points for the Dogs in the second half and overtime. As the game went into overtime, the Dogs became fatigued, as there was only one substitute on the bench to relieve them. The Dogs also shot poorly from the free throw line; in the second half and overtime combined, they went seven for 15.

LBM pulled out the win with some solid performances down the stretch. Scott Baker ended the game with 22 points and was supported by LBM's big man, Geoff Richardson, who put in 19 points. The Dogs were led by Lance Stroud, who had another strong game with 22 points, and was also helped by Adam Long, who scored 15 points. Reservoir Dogs captain Ryan DeSouza was limited to seven points, his trademark long distance shooting hampered by a nagging shoulder injury.

The Little Big Men will now move onto the finals to play Erindale State, where many feel that the clock will strike

new model. But is that much time necessary? The league would have started in January, with the off-season having lasted eight months. With the influx of a large freshman class and solid rules laid out from the start, the league could have been salvaged. If players were asked to once again sign a contract for fair play and made to understand that violence of any kind would not be tolerated, the league could progress.

But Principal McNutt decided to follow the recommendation of the DAR report and suspend ball hockey for one year. Les McCormick made a good point, that the principal could have permanently suspended ball hockey, but it's a minimal consolation for this year's players. Baxter stated that, "85 to 90 per cent of the players are fine." Once again, the question arises as to why the majority is being punished for the minority's actions. Current ECARA president, Mark Santarossa states, "It's such a fundamental part of this campus that by eliminating it, you are eliminating a lot of participation in UTM sports." The intramural program has always been centred around ball hockey. Without ball hockey, there are few intramural leagues to play in for the second semester, which assuredly has Athletics staff planning new leagues. Ball hockey has reached mythical levels of popularity and gained campus notoriety for having the largest intramural league in North America. "I think what the administration forgets is that even though they're the ones closing the doors, who is the one who is going to get the heat? It's not principal McNutt," Santarossa continued, "students are not going up to Principal McNutt's office and say, 'What are you doing suspending ball hockey?' These people are going to come down to my office." Prior to the release of the DAR report, Santarossa also said, "Ball hockey is not being cancelled, there is no way that I would let that happen."

The ball hockey league is gone this year. However, there may be an outside chance of having a ball hockey tournament that will serve as a measuring stick to see if the new changes are working. This tournament though, was supposed to have been conducted in the first semester but was cancelled. If this tournament had been played in November as planned with rule changes, then ball hockey might have been saved for this year; however without the tournament, there is no way to prove that ball hockey could be cleaned up now, and as a result, it's suspended for the year.

So while there is slim hope for a ball hockey tournament, it can only happen if the task force comes up with a new model in time. But it looks like that task force may take a while, which means that the longer it takes for the task force to get together, the slimmer the chances for a tournament. But as it stands, there will be no EBHL, and UTM's most popular sport will be suspended for at least one year.

-with files from Duncan Koerber

Women's teams clean up in first semester

BY ADAORA N. OGBUE

The 1998-1999 season is shaping up to be a veritable success for UTM women's interfaculty teams. With playoffs looming for the first semester's leagues, our first division teams are poised at the top of the standings in every sport. Soccer and basketball finished with perfect records, with soccer not having conceded a single goal in the regular season. Unfortunately, the women conceded a 2-1 loss to St. Mike's in overtime in the semi-final. Meanwhile, touch football and field hockey remained undefeated throughout the season while having to settle for a tie with their respective rivals, Scarborough and St. Hilda's. Watch out for these exciting match-ups in the coming play-offs.

Our full-year sports teams are also enjoying the view from the top. Division I Volleyball is in control of their league, having won the first six of their 11-game season. Unfortunately, five of these have resulted from defaults by their downtown opponents. Nevertheless, the team remains optimistic about the second half of the season. They will be in action downtown next against Victoria College on Tuesday November 24 at 7 p.m.

In the meantime, ice hockey has enjoyed an exciting battle for the top spot in their league. After suffering a 4-2 loss to Phys-Ed in their second

game, our ladies rallied to answer with a 3-1 victory in their next meeting. They also kept the Scarborough-Erindale rivalry going strong by beating the opposition. Our girls are now 5-1 going into their next game against Victoria. Catch them at Varsity Arena on Saturday November 28 at 6 p.m.

Finally, our second division basketball team's season has culminated in success with their win against Medicine on Thursday, November 12. The ladies improved over the course of the season under the guidance of their dedicated coach, Scott Baker, and are

now looking forward to next semester's league, which starts in January.

With their continued success and positive prospects going into the play-offs, UTM women's interfaculty teams have the edge in the fight for the coveted university-wide Women's Intramural Sports Competition Award and the Marie Parkes Trophy. Keep an eye out for their conquests next semester, and come out and join us in January for lacrosse, indoor soccer, Div. II volleyball and basketball. Keep up the good work!

Men's division II hockey season over

BY PAUL BANNISTER

The Erindale Men's Div II hockey team saw the curtains close on its dreadful first semester season. Coming off a blowout 8-3 loss to Scarborough College, the Erindale team managed to pick up its first point of the season with a 6-6 tie against New College. For the first time this year, the Erindale team almost managed to stay out of the penalty box, only getting one minor penalty the whole game. This, in comparison to their usual style of play that sees them shorthanded the whole game, amassing numerous penalties and suspensions. By staying out of the penalty box, the Erindale team was able to chalk up

two power play goals, but did give up one during their only penalty.

Overall the season was a poor one for Erindale, finishing with a record of five losses, one tie and zero wins, giving them sole position of last place in their division. In the January term, Erindale will have to stay out of the penalty box, and at least think about back checking and playing defense, something that is always escaping the minds of goal hungry players.

All games are played at the soon to be closed Varsity arena, and a schedule is posted down by the gym. Fans are always welcome to come out and support their hockey team. Admission is free.

Soccer playoffs in full flow



NIC won this game over Inter EC, but the win is pending an appeal.

photo/Sijie Xu

Field hockey goes to the finals

BY ALISON FERNANDES

Beating Skule 3-0 on Thursday, November 5 put the women's field hockey team at the top of the standings at the end of the regular season after. The strong defence of Carolyn Noakes and Nevella Schepmyer and the impressive goaltending of Debbie Medieros kept Skule at bay. The dazzling offence of Haze Schepmyer, Khush Amaria,

Ntina Kouretsos, Lindsay Telfer, Nathalie Poupart and Keira Stockdale gave UTM a strong lead.

The team has moved on to the finals after St. Hilda disappointingly defaulted in the semi-finals.

They will be taking on Pharmacy in the finals, which will be held at Varsity Stadium, on Sunday, November 22 at 11 a.m. Good luck team. Bring back the championship!

Women's Interfaculty Scores

7/11 Touch Football
UTM 24 - Pharmacy B 0

Basketball Div I
UTM 21 - Houghton, NY 97
(NAIA team)

8/11 Ice Hockey
UTM 3 - Scarborough 0
Soccer (1/4 final)
UTM 1 - PT/OT 0 (Default)

10/11 Volleyball Div I
UTM 2 - St. Mike's 0 (Default)

12/11 Basketball Div I
UTM 46 - Pharmacy 35

Basketball Div II
UTM 18 - Medicine 8

13/11 Basketball Div I
UTM 31 - Medaille 73
(NAIA team)

14/11 Soccer (1/2 final)
UTM 1 - St. Michael's 2

Field Hockey (1/2 final)
UTM 1 - St. Hilda's 0 (Default)

15/11 Touch Football (1/4 final)
UTM 7 - Law 0 (Default)

17/11 Basketball Div I
UTM 0 - Daemon, NY 2 (Default)
(NAIA team)

Volleyball Div I
UTM 2 - Pharmacy 0 (Default)

19/11 Ice Hockey
UTM 5 - Medicine 0

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ICP beats Huge Midgets to take NFL title

NFL final:
ICP versus Huge Midgets
BY ZUHAIR FANCY

With the top seeds gone from the playoffs, the bottom teams battled it out for the NFL championship. Spectators commented that it was the Varsity Blues (Huge Midgets) versus the Division II interfaculty football team (ICP). Both teams brought out full squads for this game. For ICP, this included the return of their immaculate receiver Joe Bakewell.

The game was run and gun from the start and by the end of the first half, the score was 29-24 in favour of ICP. As the game continued into the second half it was no different as the teams piled up the points in an offensive display for the ages.

When the dust settled, ICP had come out with a 42-37 win to take the NFL championship. ICP quarterback Bruce Worthington had a solid game as he threw for four touchdowns. Mark Quigley did most of the damage as he scored 21 points for ICP. The Huge Midgets spread their offence around as Terry Balaura had another solid game as he scored eight points while Midgets quarterback Clark Stewart threw for three touchdowns.

NFL Semi-finals:
Bristol U versus Huge Midgets
BY ZUHAIR FANCY

Going into the game, Bristol U was the favourite as they had finished first in the NFL, but a few miscues combined with some great individual efforts from the Huge Midgets saw a big upset as the Midgets won 30-29.

The game was exciting in the first half as both teams showed off their offence at the half, the score was 16-13. Mike Uhm hit a field goal for the Midgets at the end of the first half to give them the lead as it broke the 13-13 tie.

The second half was tight as both teams continued to play well. Terry Balaura stepped up his game and caught everything that was thrown near him. After Bristol U battled to tie the game at 29, the Midgets got the ball at their own 35 yard line with just under two minutes left in the game. With some big catches by Balaura, they drove deep into Bristol territory. With seven seconds on the clock, Mike Uhm kicked a single to give the Midgets a 30-29 lead. With just one second on the clock, Bristol tried to pull out all the stops to score a single to tie the

Huskies take CFL championship

CFL final:
BMF versus Huskies
BY ZUHAIR FANCY

The finals for the CFL had the Huskies and BMF clash in a game that was close right up till the end. Both teams battled it out and some great individual efforts helped the Huskies to win 21-15.

At the end of the first half, the Huskies had a 12-0 lead but BMF battled back as in the second half they outscored the Huskies 15-9. But the deficit from the first half was too much for BMF to overcome.

The Huskies got a great performance from quarterback Fernando Freda who threw for three touchdowns. His main target for the game was Kurt Tietz who scored 15 points. For BMF, Eddy Bavington had an off game as he threw two touchdowns, but also threw two interceptions.

game. Bryan Foo caught a short pass and four laterals later, Steve Ghose kicked the ball towards the Midgets' end zone. The ball bounced on the one-yard line and Balaura, who was the only Midget who ran for the ball, tried to smother it. He slid past the ball only making contact with it and not actually taking possession of it. Bristol kicked the ball in and thought they had tied the game, but the referees judged that Balaura had smothered the ball thus ending the game. An argument ensued but the play stood.

The Midgets got a great game from quarterback Clark Stewart who made crisp passes all game and threw for four touchdowns. Terry Balaura was the difference for the Midgets as he scored 19 points and prevented Bristol U from tying the game on the final play. Bristol spread their scoring around as seven players scored points. Quarterback Mike Arage threw for three touchdowns and ran another one in himself.

After a horrible regular season, the Huge Midgets finally earned the number one ranking that they were given in the pre-season.

Reapers versus ICP
BY ZUHAIR FANCY

The Reapers were favoured going into this playoff game with ICP, but after a bit of controversy, ICP came out with the win. ICP gave the Reapers the impression that they would be playing a six-on-six game, as both teams would be missing players due to exams. But when the game began ICP had nine players show up and decided that they would put seven players on the field. With this advantage, ICP was able to win the game 28-7 and they mercied the Reapers.

The Reapers battled to keep the score close, but by the half they were down 14-7. The second half was not much better as they were once again outscored by ICP, this time 14-0.

With the win, ICP earned a spot in the finals for the NFL. They got a solid game from their entire line-up, and Neil Chisholm continued his great play as he returned an on-side kick for a touchdown. ICP quarterback, Bruce Worthington, had a solid game and ran in a couple of converts. Steve Pontet scored the only touchdown for the Reapers. Jason Nicols struggled against the ICP defense, which had an extra defender, and threw two interceptions.

CFL semi-finals:
BMF versus McFish

This game was an easy win for BMF as McFish had only six players show up. The score at the end of the first half was 18-0 with BMF scoring another touchdown early into the second half to win the game 21-0 by mercy.

BMF quarterback Eddy Bavington spread the offense around as he threw for four touchdowns to different receivers.

Electric Mayhem versus Huskies

In another blowout in the first round for the CFL, the Huskies man-handled Electric Mayhem as they won 30-6. The Huskies had a 24-6 lead at the half and never looked back. The Huskies spread the offense around and showed their versatility.



The Huge Midgets were one step behind ICP all game.

photo/Sijie Xu

NFL PLAYOFF RACE			
(1) BRISTOL U. 29	(4) MIDGETS 37	(3) ICP 42	(2) REAPERS 7
(4) HUGE MIDGETS 30	ICP - NFL CHAMPS		(3) ICP 28
CFL PLAYOFF RACE			
(1) HUSKIES 30	(1) HUSKIES 21	(3) BMF 15	(3) BMF 21
(4) ELECTRIC M. 6	HUSKIES - CFL CHAMPS		(2)MC FISH 0


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